

THE
Nonconformist.

"THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION."

VOL. XV.—NEW SERIES, No. 484.]

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1855.

[PRICE 6d

PATRON, H.R.H. PRINCE ALBERT.

ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION

—Continued improvements, increased attractions, fresh decorations.

DRAMATIC READINGS by Miss GLYN, Thursday Evening, the 8th inst. at Eight o'clock, OTHELLO.

IMPORTANT LECTURES:—

Wednesday, the 7th inst. at 8.—Mrs. FURLONG on "ORAL" INSTRUCTION.

On the NEW BANK NOTE, by Dr. BACHOFFNER, giving such information as will enable the public to detect FORGED NOTES.

On the TELEPHONIC CONCERT, by invisible performers on four of ERARD'S HARPS, by J. H. PEPPEL, Esq., illustrating Professor WHEATSTONE'S EXPERIMENTS on the TRANSMISSION OF SOUND.

ENTIRELY NEW and SPLENDID OPTICAL DIORAMA, from the ARABIAN NIGHTS, of the VOYAGES OF SINBAD the SAILOR, with beautiful PHANTASMAGORIA EFFECTS, and appropriate Music arranged by Mr. WAUP.

VIEWS OF THE WAR.

PERKINS'S STEAM GUN, which now discharges 200 BALLS per minute.

TO DRAPERS.—WANTED, in a few weeks, by an Experienced Hand, a good berth in a genteel Country Trade.—Address, C. H., 3, High-street, Bognor, Sussex.

TO GROCERS.—WANTED, as BOOK-KEEPER and SALESMAN, a Man of experience and good business habits.—Apply to S. SWINDEL, Wholesale Grocer, Halifax.

TO GROCERS and PROVISION

MERCHANTS.—DESIRABLE FREEHOLD PROPERTY.

—To be Sold or Let on Lease, with immediate possession (in consequence of the severe illness of the proprietor), an excellent country business. It is situated in the centre of the best street of a market town, within 40 miles of London. Railway trains in and out from ten to twelve times a-day. The shop has a plate-glass front, with mahogany sashes, is about 35 feet long by 20 wide. There is a good warehouse, and large well-drained cellar. The house consists of eleven rooms, many of them large and well-ventilated there is a private door, good passage, and excellent garden. For further particulars apply to Mr. ROBERT LE BLOND, Printer, Budge-row, City. Principals only will be treated with, and personal applications alone be attended to.

N.B.—The business will require about a Thousand Pounds.

LIFE ASSURANCE.

NORTHAMPTON—PETERBOROUGH—STAMFORD.

An EXPERIENCED CANVASSER wanted for each of the above Towns, to whom a SALARY and COMMISSION will be given. Applications, by letter, addressed to S. Z., Post-office, Northampton, to contain name, address, office for which agent, amount of business done, references as to respectability and business habits. As a qualified person may obtain at least £100 per annum by the above, no application will be attended to unaccompanied by the information required, nor later than the 14th inst.

A DESIRABLE OPENING for a

RESPECTABLE YOUTH.—A Gentleman, holding an important position in connexion with an established Assurance Company, is open to negotiate for qualifying a respectable youth in the principles of Life Assurance; and would arrange his introduction to a respectable situation. Might board with the Advertiser (who is a Member of a Christian Church) if desired. A premium required.—Address, R. S. T., Castle and Lamb's Advertising office, Bell Lane-court, Newgate-street, London.

PIANOFORTE for TWENTY GUINEAS.

—A very Powerful and Brilliant Toned Semi-Cottage, in an excellent Rosewood case, 6½ octaves, O.G. Fall, &c. It has all the recent improvements, having been in use a short time, will be sold at the above extreme low price for ready money. To be seen at Messrs. Ralph Smith, and Co.'s, 171, Bishopsgate-street, City.

THE NONCONFORMIST.—Six Years

of the Nonconformist may be had for £2 the set. They are very clean, and only a few numbers are wanting.—Address, ALPHA, Mr. Horn's, Bookseller, Cheddle, Stafford.

COALS, Best, 30s.—R. S. DIXON and

SON recommend the purchase of Coals for Winter, as they do not anticipate any further reduction in price.—Providence Wharf, Belvidere-road, Lambeth.

BEST COALS ONLY.—COCKERELL

and CO., COAL MERCHANTS to Her MAJESTY.—Cash price to-day, 31s. per ton for screened/unmixed Best Coals (officially certified), to which quality their trade has been exclusively confined for the last twenty years.—Purfleet Wharf, Earl-street, Blackfriars, and Eaton Wharf, Belgrave-place, Fimlico

COALS.—Eastern Counties Railway.—

The following are this day's prices of COALS brought to London by this railway:—From the county of Durham—Stewart's Wall's-end double screened, 29s. per ton. Whitwell or Old Etherley Wall's-end, 27s. per ton. From the Yorkshire and Derbyshire coal fields, best quality—Silkstone Main, double screened, 24s. per ton; Rothwell Haigh, Clay Cross, Tipton, screened, 22s. 6d. per ton; 2nd quality, screened, 21s. 6d. per ton; hard steam coals, 22s. Baker's Hartley's, 21s. per ton. These coals will be delivered at the above prices two miles from the Mile-end or Bishopsgate Stations. Beyond two and under five miles 1s. per ton extra. Beyond 5 miles 1s. per ton per mile extra. Orders may be addressed to Mr. ALFRED S. PRIOR, Mile-end or Bishopsgate Stations. Cash to be paid on or before delivery.

By order,

J. B. OWEN, Secretary.

Bishopsgate Station, January, 1855.

SABBATH SERVICES in EXETER-

HALL.—New Park-street Chapel, Southwark, will be closed for Enlargement on February 11th, and seven following Lord's-days. The Rev. C. H. SPURGEON will preach during that period in EXETER-HALL, Strand, on Lord's-days Morning and Evening. Service to commence in the Morning at 11 before 11, and in the Evening at half-past six.

SUNDAY EVENING LECTURES at

DEVONSHIRE-SQUARE CHAPEL, Bishopsgate-street, by the Rev. J. H. HINTON, M.A.

1855.—ON ACQUAINTANCE WITH GOD.

Feb. 11.—God as an Intelligent Being.

Feb. 18.—God as an Emotional Being.

Feb. 25.—God as a Voluntary Being.

March 4.—God as an Active Being.

Service commences at Half-past Six o'clock.

DISEASES of the EAR.—ROYAL DISPENSARY for DISEASES of the EAR, DEAN-STREET, SOHO-SQUARE.

ESTABLISHED, 1816.

President.—The Duke of BUCCLEUCH, K.G.

Treasurer.—JOHN MASTERMAN, Esq., M.P.

Surgeon.—WILLIAM HARVEY, Esq., F.R.C.S., 2, Soho-square.

At the Half Yearly Meeting, there were admitted on the books 700 cases of various conditions of deafness and diseases of the Ear. The Public are earnestly entreated for subscriptions to support the daily increasing number of applicants, which will be thankfully received by Messrs. Coutts and Co., Strand; Messrs. Masterman and Co., and at the Dispensary by

H. SMYTH, Secretary.

ROYAL WESTMINSTER OPHTHALMIC HOSPITAL, CHARING-CROSS.

The ASSISTANCE of the benevolent is earnestly entreated in support of this Hospital, which is open to all indigent persons suffering from diseases of the eye, the funds of which are wholly inadequate to meet the increasing demands for relief. 6,000 poor persons are annually admitted on their own applications; there are 30 beds for in-patients, the wards are large and airy, and it is deeply to be deplored that the insufficiency of means for their support precludes the admission of only half that number.

Contributions will be thankfully received by Messrs. Coutts and Co., bankers, Strand; by Messrs. Drummonds, bankers, Charing-cross; by the Secretary, Mr. G. C. FARRANT; or the housekeeper, Mrs. Silvers, at the Hospital.

23, Crown-street, Reading.

ESTABLISHMENT for YOUNG

LADIES, by Mrs. S. W. KILPIN and Miss FULLER.

Testimonials, references, and terms, upon application.

ESTABLISHMENT for YOUNG

LADIES, 4, Cromer-terrace, Grange-road, Dalston.

The MISSES MACKENZIE receive and educate Young Ladies in a superior manner with the comforts of Home.—Terms reasonable.—References to Ministers and Parents of Pupils. Apply for circular as above.

HYDE PARK SCHOOL, HEADINGLEY,

LEEDS.—The course of instruction includes the Latin, Greek, French, and German languages; Chemistry, Drawing, and Drilling, together with the usual branches of a good English education.

Quarters commence January 30th, April 10th, July 31st, and October 9th, 1855.

Terms may be had on application to the Rev. R. Brewer.

PORTLAND GRAMMAR SCHOOL,

PLYMOUTH, conducted by Mr. R. F. WEYMOUTH, M.A.

(of University College, London), M.A.S., &c. &c., assisted by well qualified and experienced Masters.

The Course of Studies pursued at this Establishment is suitable as preparatory either for a College Course or for Professional or Commercial Life.

The house is very healthily situated in the highest part of the town, and close to the northern outskirts, but at a convenient distance for sea-bathing.

Terms, from 35 to 45 guineas per annum.

HOMERTON COLLEGE, the Training

Institution of the Congregational Board of Education.

The next Session commences April 1st, 1855, when there will be Vacancies for Male and Female Students. Applications for admission into the College, and for Teachers, to be addressed to the Principals, the Rev. W. J. UNWIN, M.A., The College, Homerton, near London. As applications from Schools have frequently to be declined from want of suitable Teachers, a Register is kept of Teachers holding the principles of the Board who are in want of Situations.

WILLIAM RUTT, Hon. Sec.

REMOVAL.—Mr. W. H. HALSE, the

Professor of Medical Galvanism, informs his FRIENDS that he has REMOVED from Brunswick-square to WALPOLE LODGE, 51, FINCHLEY-ROAD, ST. JOHN'S-WOOD, LONDON.

Send Two Stamps for Postage of his Gratuitous Pamphlet on "Medical Galvanism."

Invalids will be astonished at its contents.

Terms, One Guinea a Week. Mr. Halse particularly recommends Galvanism for General Debility, Loss of Power in any part, and Spermatorrhoea.

J. TURNER & SON, CABINET, CHAIR,

and SOFA MANUFACTURERS, UPHOLSTERERS, and GENERAL FURNISHERS, 42, Great James's-street, Bedford-row; Manufactory, St. John's-road, Hoxton, London.

The Cottage or Mansion completely furnished in the most modern and elegant style, at manufacturers' prices. Design and Price Books gratis on application.

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GOOD MOTTLED AND YELLOW SOAP.

OIL OF ALL KINDS.

Chaplin and Lambert, 89 and 90, Leather-lane, Holborn.

SIX for 40s.—EVANS' ELYSIAN

SHIRT is the newest and unquestionably the best fitting shirt now made. Youth's, six for 18s. 6d.; three fold collars, 10s. 6d. per doz.; flannel shirts, 10s. 6d. Easy directions for measuring post-free (six years' with B. Nichol); French and German spoken.—13A, NEW BOND STREET, nearly opposite Grafton-street.

PUBLIC CEMETERY CONVEYANCE.

—Well-appointed Horses leave daily for the different New Cemeteries of the Metropolis—Charges for conveyance of Adults, 10s.; Children, 7s. Mourning Coaches follow (when required), charge for each mourner 5s. there and back. Orders received by ANTILL and Co., 65, Judd-street, St. Pancras; 6, Crawford-street, Marylebone; and 150, Blackfriars-road, Surrey. Adults First-class Carriage Funeral, and Grave in a Cemetery at Tooting, Finchley, or Hanwell, including every expense, £10; Second ditto, £6; Third-class, £3 10s.; Children's ditto, £1 10s. See Prospectus.

THE IDONEOUS TROUSERS.—An

excellent fitting Garment, unsurpassed for ease, elegance, and comfort, in sitting, walking, and ESPECIALLY RIDING. Modern and best materials only employed. First price, One Guinea. Also, a large assortment of every style of Garment suitable for the present season, ready for immediate use, or to order at moderate charges. Particulars for self-measurement, &c., sent by post.

HENRY L. MARSHALL, 516 and 517, New Oxford-street Entrance corner of Duke-street, leading to the British Museum.

THE NERVO-ARTERIAL ESSENCE,

discovered and prepared by Dr. WILLIAM BATCHELLOUR, M.R.C.S.E. and M.L.A.C. It replenishes the sources of nervous power. Dr. Batchelour may be consulted at 13, Finsbury-place, south, City; and after 4 by appointment, at 15, Albion-street, Hyde-park-square. The essence is sold in bottles at 4s. 6d. and 11s. each.

From the Rev. Charles Clay, Wesleyan Minister, Wesley Chapel, Meadow-lane, Leeds.

To Dr. W. Batchelour,—Your Nervo-Arterial Essence has been of great service as regards my voice, and I am thankful that I was presented by you with so great a boon. I believe I am still greatly benefitted by your Essence, my joints are less painful and weak, and my voice is much better.

COCOA containing, as it does, a farinaceous

substance and a bland oil, is a most valuable article of diet. To adapt it, however, to delicate stomachs, it is essential that the farinaceous substance be perfectly incorporated with the oil, so that the one prevents the other from separating. Such union exists in the Cocoa here presented. The delightful flavour, in part dependent on the oil, is fully developed, and the whole preparation made grateful to the weakest digestion.

JAMES EPPS, HOMEOPATHIC CHEMIST,

Egyptian Hall, Piccadilly.

112, Great Russell-street, Bloomsbury.

82, Old Broad-street, City.

In regard to purity, see the Report of the Analytical Sanitary Commission in the *Lancet*, July 5, 1851.

SYDENHAM TROUSERS, 17s. 6d.

SAMUEL, BROTHERS, 29, LUDGATE-

HILL, Inventors and Sole Manufacturers of the SYDENHAM TROUSERS, at 17s. 6d. Unequalled for Superior Style, Fit, Quality, Perfect Ease, and Gracefulness, so requisite for gentlemanly appearance, and so rarely obtained. The advantage of the SYDENHAM TROUSERS over all others is the systematic self-adjusting principle on which they are constructed. Patterns and Guide to Self-measurement sent free.

SAMUEL, BROTHERS' Stock of OVERCOATS for the PRESENT SEASON is worthy of your inspection, combining three requisites—quality, style, and moderate price.

Ready-made Clothes equal to bespoke—an advantage of to be obtained at any other Establishment.

Dress Coats	21s. to 42s.	Tailcoats	5s. to 50s.
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Oxonian Coat	16s. to 24s.	Hussar Suits	25s. to 28s.
Albion Over-Coat	21s. to 42s.	The New Circular	
Toga	25s. to 50s.	Coat with Belt ..	12s. 6d.

A Four-Pound Suit, Samuel Brothers strongly recommend, made from Saxony Cloth, manufactured by an eminent West-of-England House, the wear of which they warrant. Patterns, &c., sent free.

No. 29, LUDGATE HILL

One Hundred more shares issued at the first meeting than were issued by the first societies, and nearly £2,000 taken.

INDEPENDENT BUILDING SOCIETY,

No. 3. Shares, £20; Entrance, 4s.; Subscription, 5s. Monthly.—Unprecedented success attended the WEST LONDON DISSENTERS' and INDEPENDENT BUILDING SOCIETIES, which issued 4,000 shares to 1,500 members; and advanced £150,000. This society, established under the same management, and anticipating support from so vast a proprietary, has already made gratifying progress, rendering its success certain. Its leading features are:—The full value of property promptly advanced—borrowers enabled to redeem their properties, being allowed 5 per cent. discount—fixed at ten years' duration—no ballot—6 per cent. guaranteed on withdrawal—mutual benefits—fixed law charges.

ONE THOUSAND POUNDS will be offered to competition at the Second Subscription Meeting, which will be held on TUESDAY, the 13th of FEBRUARY, 1855, from 7 to 8 o'clock, at Wardour Chapel School, Chapel-street, Wardour-street, Soho.

Prospectuses and Shares issued daily by the Secretary, Mr. HOLCOMBE, 3, Oldham-place, Bagnigge-wells-road, near Exmouth-street.

ORIGINAL

NATIONAL GUARDIAN ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

CHIEF OFFICE—19, MOORGATE STREET, LONDON.
Branch offices at Birmingham, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Hamburg and Portsea.
Every description of Assurance effected upon equitable terms.
Eight-tenths of the profits divided amongst the assured.
Prospectuses to be had on application.
JAMES HOBSON, Secretary.

LOANS, AT 25 PER CENT. PER ANNUM,
From £25 to £1000.

NEW NATIONAL LIFE, FIRE, AND LOAN COMPANY.

454, Oxford-street, Bloomsbury, London.
THOMAS BOURNE, Resident and Managing Secretary.

NOTICE OF DIVIDEND.—BANK OF DEPOSIT, NATIONAL ASSURANCE AND INVESTMENT ASSOCIATION, No. 3, Pall Mall East, London.

Established A.D. 1844. Empowered by Special Act of Parliament.
The Warrants for the Half-yearly Interest, at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, on Deposit Accounts, to 31st December, are ready for delivery, and payable daily.

PETER MORRISON, Managing Director.
Parties desirous of Investing Money are requested to examine the plan of the Bank or Deposit. Prospectuses and Forms for Opening Accounts sent free on application.

ACHILLES INSURANCE COMPANY,

25, CANNON-STREET, LONDON.
19, PRINCESS-STREET, MANCHESTER.

CAPITAL: £100,000, in 10,000 Shares of £10 each.
With power to increase to One Million.

EDWARD WIALL, Esq., M.P., Chairman.
Col. LOTHIAN S. DICKSON, Deputy Chairman.

The advantages offered by this Company will be seen on an investigation of its Rates of Premium, which are based upon the latest and most approved corrected Tables of Mortality, and the terms of its Loan business. It offers to the Assured the security of a large subscribed Capital, combined with all the advantages of a Mutual Assurance Office—Eighty per Cent. of the Profits being divided amongst the Policy-holders every five years.

POLICIES ARE IRREVOCABLE.
No CHARGE is made for POLICY STAMPS on Medical Fees.
One THIRD of the Premiums on Assurances of £500 is allowed to remain unpaid, and continue as a claim on the Policy.
POLICIES NOT FORFEITED if the Premiums are not paid when due.

LOANS are granted to Policy-holders on liberal terms. A Policy of the amount only of the sum borrowed, being as collateral security, required.

For the convenience of the WORKING CLASSES Policies are issued as low as £10, at the same Rates as larger Assurances. Premiums may be paid Quarterly, Half-yearly, or Annually.
Any other Particulars, or Rates of Premium required for any contingency, can be obtained of the Agents of the Company, or of the Chief Office, 25, Cannon-street, or of the Secretary.

HUGH BROWN TAPLIN, Secretary.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

To secure the advantage of this year's entry, Proposals must be lodged at the Head Office, or at any of the Society's Agencies, on or before 1st March.

SCOTTISH MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

HEAD OFFICE—25, ST. ANDREW-SQUARE, EDINBURGH.
LONDON—125, BISHOPSGATE-STREET.
Incorporated by Special Act of Parliament.

The Profits are divided every Three Years, and wholly belong to the Members of the Society. The next division takes place at 1st March, 1855.

EXAMPLE OF ADDITIONS.

On a Policy for £1,000, DATED 1st March, 1843.
£1,000 will be payable if it becomes a Claim during the current year, after payment of this year's Premium. This is an addition of more than Fifty per Cent. on the Sum Assured, and averages 23 3/4 per cent. per annum.
Supposing such a Policy to have been effected at the age of Thirty, the additions might now be surrendered for a present Payment of £231 7s. 10d., or if applied in reduction of the future Premium, would reduce the Premium from £35 10s. 10d. to £25 2s.; and even this small payment must be reduced every Three Years during the subsistence of the Policy.

AMOUNT OF EXISTING ASSURANCES £4,984,508
ANNUAL REVENUE 162,615
AMOUNT OF ACCUMULATED FUND 839,354

Copies of the Annual Report, Forms of Proposals, and all information may be had on application at any of the Society's Offices, in town or country.

W. COOK, Agent.

126, Bishopsgate-street, London.

MONEY ADVANCED, to any Amount, on LIFE INTERESTS, MORTGAGE, or REVERSIONS.
Loans of every description on good personal and other security. Large or small capitalists, desirous of safe and profitable investments, are invited to communicate with the Advertiser.
Address to Mr. H. LEA, No. 33, Great Winchester-street, City.

MONEY LENT on PERSONAL SECURITY, LEASES, LIFE POLICIES, &c.

Sum from £5 to £200 advanced two or three days after application, for Two Years, One Year, or Six Months, repayable any day in the week, by weekly, monthly, or quarterly instalments; and Good Bills Discounted. Charges moderate, and strict confidence observed.

LONDON AND PROVINCIAL LOAN AND DISCOUNT COMPANY. Private Office, 25, Goswell-road, London.—Open daily from 9 till 4, thus avoiding inconvenience or Publicity.—Forms of Application and Prospectus gratis, on receipt of Stamped Envelope.
H. FLEAH, Manager.

CROGGON'S PATENT ASPHALTE

ROOFING FELT has been extensively used and pronounced efficient, and particularly applicable to WARM CLIMATES. It is a non-conductor.—It is portable, being packed in rolls, and not liable to damage in carriage.—It effects a saving of half the timber usually required.—It can be easily applied by any unpractised person.—From its lightness, weighing only 42lbs to the square of 100 feet, the cost of carriage is small.—UNDER SLATES, &c., in Church and other Roofs, the Felt has been extensively used to REGULATE THE TEMPERATURE.

INDOOR FELT, for damp walls; and for damp floors under carpets and floor cloths; also for LINING IRON HOUSES, to equalise the temperature.

PRICE ONE PENNY PER SQUARE FOOT.

PATENT FELTED SHEATHING for covering Ships' Bottoms, &c. DRY HAIR FELT, for Deadening Sound, and Covering Steam Boilers, Pipes, &c., preventing the Radiation of Heat, thereby saving TWENTY-FIVE PER CENT. OF FUEL.

Samples, Testimonials, and full instructions, on application to CROGGON and Co., DOWGATE-HILL, LONDON.

TO NERVOUS SUFFERERS.

A Railroad Clergyman, having been restored to health a few days after many years of great nervous suffering, is anxious to make known to others the means of cure, and will therefore send (free), on receiving a stamped envelope, properly addressed, a copy of the prescription used.—Direct to the Rev. E. DOUGLASS, 10, Holland-street, Brixton, London.

TO INVALIDS.—COOPERS ILLUS-

TRATED CATALOGUE OF MEDICAL APPARATUS, DRUGS, &c., forwarded free by Post. Superior Brass Enema Apparatus, 10s. Pocket Medicine Cases for travelling, 10s. Stopped Bottles in Boxwood cases, from 1s. Medicated Lozenges, 3s. 6d. per lb. Seldis Powders, 1s. per Box. Bermuda Arrow Root, 2s. per lb.; every Medicine of the purest quality only, at a considerable reduction on the usual charges, at WILLIAM T. COOPER'S Dispensing Establishment, 26, Oxford-street, London.

TEETH.—MR. GREGSON, Practical

Surgeon-Dentist, 7, HOLLES-STREET, CAVENDISH-SQUARE, inviting attention to his improved method of adopting ARTIFICIAL TEETH of all kinds. From his long experience in the actual manipulation and construction of dental mechanism, patients may rely on receiving the very best description on the most reasonable terms, and thereby secure as complete comfort in mastication and articulation, as art can accomplish. All operations in Dentistry particularly attended to.

7, HOLLES-STREET, CAVENDISH-SQUARE.

TO MOTHERS AND NURSES.

MRS. JOHNSON'S AMERICAN

SMOOTHING SYRUP.—This efficacious Remedy has been in general use for upwards of Thirty Years, and has preserved numerous Children when suffering from Convulsions arising from Painful Dentition. As soon as the Syrup is rubbed on the gums the child will be relieved, the gums cooled, and the inflammation reduced. It is as innocent as efficacious, tending to produce the Teeth with ease; and so pleasant that no child will refuse to let its gums be rubbed with it. Parents should be very particular to ask for JOHNSON'S AMERICAN SMOOTHING SYRUP, and to notice that the names of BARCLAY and SONS, 95, FARRINGTON-STREET, LONDON (to whom Mrs. Johnson has sold the recipe), are on the stamp affixed to each bottle.—Price 2s. 6d. per bottle.

TO VISITORS to the NEW CRYSTAL

PALACE!—HINT to MOTHERS!—ATKINSON and BARKER'S ROYAL INFANTS' PRESERVATIVE (Established in the year 1793) is the best medicine that can possibly be given to infants and young children, and, as its name implies, is a real preservative of INFANTS in their numerous disorders, affording INSTANT RELIEF in CONVULSIONS, FLATULENCY, AFFECTIONS OF THE BOWELS, DIFFICULT TEETHING, RICKETS, MEASLES, &c., &c. IT STANDS UNRIVALLED, and is so perfectly INNOCENT, that it may be given immediately after birth. Thousands of children are annually saved by this much esteemed medicine.—One trial will prove more than words can express.

Prepared only by ROBERT BARKER, Hall Bank, Bowdon, near Manchester. (Chemist to Her Most Gracious Majesty, Queen Victoria), in bottles at 1s. 1d., 2s. 6d., and 4s. 6d. each.

CAUTION.—Observe the names of "ATKINSON and BARKER" on the Government Stamp.

Sold by all druggists and medicine vendors throughout the United Kingdom.

DEAFNESS AND NOISES in the EARS.

EXTRAORDINARY DISCOVERY.—Just Published, price 7d., by post, Certain Mode of Self-Cure. Any partially or completely deaf person can permanently restore their own hearing. Distressing noises in the Head relieved in Half-an-hour. This book has cured hundreds, living in the most distant part of the world, without absence from home or business. It is published by Dr. HOGHTON, Member of the London Royal College of Surgeons, May 2, 1845, L.A.C., April 30, 1846, Consulting Surgeon to the Institution for the Cure of Deafness, 9, Suffolk-place, Pall-mall.

Sent free to any part, on receipt of letter, enclosing Seven Postage-stamps, A HINT and HELP, for the benefit and protection of deaf persons, a stop to Quackery, extortionate fees, and charges. By this new discovery, totally deaf sufferers are enabled to hear conversation, without any ear-trumpet or instrument, for ever rescuing them from the grasp of the extortionate and dangerous Empiric. It contains startling cures, deaf persons having cured themselves, many instantaneously effected. All letters to be directed to Dr. Houghton, 9, Suffolk-place, Pall-mall, London. Patients received any day from 12 till 4. Consultation free.

TEETH.—By Her Majesty's Royal Letters

Patent.—Newly-invented and Patented application of Chemically-prepared White India-rubber in the construction of Artificial Teeth, Gums, and Palates.—MR. EPHRAIM MOSELY, Surgeon-Dentist, 61, LOWER GROSVENOR-STREET, Grosvenor-square, sole INVENTOR and PATENTEE.

A new, original, and valuable invention, consisting in the adaptation, with the most absolute perfection and success, of CHEMICALLY-PREPARED WHITE INDIA-RUBBER as a lining to the ordinary gold or bone frame. The extraordinary results of this application may be briefly noted in a few of their most prominent features, as the following:—All sharp edges are avoided; no springs, wires, or fastenings are required; a greatly increased freedom of suction is supplied; a natural elasticity hitherto wholly unattainable, and a fit perfected with the most unerring accuracy, is secured; while, from the softness and flexibility of the agent employed, the greatest support is given to the adjoining teeth when loose, or rendered tender by the absorption of the gums. The acids of the mouth exert no agency on the chemically-prepared white INDIA-RUBBER, and as it is a non-conductor, fluids of any temperature may with thorough comfort be imbibed and retained in the mouth, all unpleasantness of smell or taste being at the same time wholly provided against by the peculiar nature of its preparation.—To be obtained only at 61, LOWER GROSVENOR-STREET, LONDON; 22, Gay-street, Bath; and 10, Eldon-square, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

PATENT GUTTA PERCHA SOLES.

The Gutta Percha Company have pleasure in requesting the attention of the Public to the following selection of Extracts of Letters from Medical Men relative to their Gutta Percha Soles.

"There is scarcely any one circumstance on which the healthy functions of internal and vital organs so much depends as on the preservation of the warmth and dryness of the feet; and the peculiar non-conducting and electric properties of Gutta Percha render it invaluable equally in cold and hot weather, when affixed to the soles of boots and shoes. I would urge every one to use it who appreciates the inestimable blessings of health."—From Dr. CONQUEST, F.R.S., London.

"Of inestimable value, both as a preventive of disease, and preservative of health."—J. MURRAY, Esq., M.D., Hall.

"Quite impervious to wet. The use of them must be conducive to health."—J. OWEN, Esq., Surgeon, Worcester.

"Many colds might be prevented by the timely use of Gutta Percha Soles: I have worn them for two years."—E. ALLEN, Esq., Surgeon, York.

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ROPER'S ROYAL BATH PLASTERS,

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Dear Sirs,—Having suffered many years from severe attacks of Rheumatic pain, I feel great pleasure in telling you that I have derived great benefit from your invaluable Plaster. I shall not certainly recommend it to all my friends, all medical aid being of no use whatever. You are at leave to publish this in any way you may think proper.—I am, dear Sirs, yours truly,
Leamington, Aug. 13th, 1854. R. MAYON, M.A.

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Sirs,—I have used your Roper's Plasters for myself and children for several months with decided benefit for Hooping Cough; three of my children being comparatively well since their application. I am, Sirs, yours respectfully, T. MAIDEN.
Ash Cottage, Stallsfield, near Faversham, Kent.

Haydon Vicarage, Stearford, April 27th, 1854.
Sirs,—The effects of Roper's Plasters I had some short time since from you has been so marvellous among my poor parishioners that I will thank you to send me an 11s. case as soon as convenient.—Your obedient servant, A. LEAFINGWELL.

Unprincipled Shopkeepers, for the sake of gain, have vended spurious imitations. Purchasers are therefore cautioned to NOTICE!—The words "ROPER'S ROYAL BATH PLASTERS," engraved on the Government Stamp.

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AMERICAN SARSAPARILLA.—This is one of the most extraordinary and valuable Medicines in the world. Its superiority over other preparations of like character, made in this country, arises from the mode of manufacture, and the advantage of obtaining and working the root in its green and fresh state. The root, when brought to this country, is dry, rapid, and almost tasteless, its virtues and juices having all evaporated; while it often becomes mouldy, musty, and partially decayed, so that it is quite unfit for use.

ENGLISH TESTIMONY.

We give a few of the many communications we have received since we have been in England, from those who have experienced the great benefits of using this celebrated medicine. They must have some weight in convincing the public of its great value.

49, Davies-street, Berkeley-square, Sept. 1, 1851.
Gentlemen,—I have much pleasure in testifying to the numerous thanks I have received from various persons who have taken Old Dr. Jacob Townsend's Sarsaparilla, many of whom will be happy to give you testimonials should you require them. I am doubly pleased to be able to speak to the good effects I have seen myself produced by the Sarsaparilla, for I must confess that, although I was not prejudicial, I was rather sceptical as to its virtues, which I would not have believed it possessed, had I not seen it—I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant, JOHN JAMESON.

FURTHER IMPORTANT TESTIMONY.

GREAT CURE OF EPILEPSY.

17, Phelps-street, Walworth, Feb. 22, 1853.
Gentlemen,—I was afflicted with the blind Piles, and was under medical treatment for three months, but obtained no relief. Hearing of Old Dr. Jacob Townsend's Sarsaparilla, I obtained some, and, after taking it a short time, the accumulated corrupt matter copiously discharged, and I almost immediately obtained relief. I still continued its use for a time, and not only found relief but a cure, and am now free from pain. I most sincerely recommend it to all who are similarly affected.—I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant, Wm. HYDE.

FEMALE COMPLAINTS.

GREAT CURE OF NEURALGIA.

London, June 10 1852.
Gentlemen,—My wife has been long afflicted with a nervous complaint, from which she suffered severely. Able physicians and many remedies were tried in vain, but I am happy to inform you that she has entirely recovered by using a few bottles of Old Dr. Townsend's Sarsaparilla.
J. R. PETERSON.

PIMPLES, BLOTCHES, ERUPTIONS, &c.

The same may be said of these as in the cure of the severe, chronic maladies, the Sarsaparilla and the Ointment will effectually wipe off all disagreeable eruptions, and render the surface clear and beautiful. Ladies troubled with rough, pimply skin, or a gross, masculine surface, will do well to use these Medicines if they wish clear, delicate, and transparent complexions. Nothing can exceed their efficacy in this respect.

CURE OF A DISORDERED STOMACH.

Lower Grosvenor-street, Grosvenor-square, July 31, 1851.

Gentlemen,—I beg to inform you that I have been using your Medicine, Dr. Townsend's Sarsaparilla, for a complaint in my stomach, from which I suffered a long time, and I am happy to say it has cured me. I shall be happy to answer any letter of inquiry, as I am satisfied your Sarsaparilla is worthy of all the recommendation I can give it.
JAMES FORSTER.

SICK HEADACHE—A CASE OF MANY YEARS' STANDING

The following is one of those cases arising from a disordered state of the uterine functions, which affect the whole system, and bring on some of the most distressing sufferings. This lady has suffered more or less for ten years, and is now entirely recovered by the use of Dr. Townsend's Sarsaparilla. She says:—

Berkeley-square, Jan. 15, 1853.

Messrs. Pomeroy and Co.—I have used your Dr. Townsend's Sarsaparilla for sick headache and general debility, arising from a disordered state of my system, and am happy to inform you that it has completely restored me to former health and strength. I experience a degree of comfort, buoyancy of spirits, and renewed strength, which I have not known for ten years. This great benefit alone induces me to write you an acknowledgment. Dialling my name in full to go before the public, I give my initials only.
"Mrs. E. W. T. C."

Half pints, 2s. 6d.; Pints, 4s.; Quarts, 7s. 6d.; and Mammoth, 11s.; Six Mammoths sent free for 60s.
POMEROY, ANDREWS, AND CO., SOLE PROPRIETORS, Warehouse, 373, Strand, London.

THE Nonconformist.

"THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION."

VOL. XV.—NEW SERIES, No. 484.]

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Ecclesiastical Affairs.

A PASSING OPPORTUNITY.

WHOEVER may be summoned to her Majesty's councils—an uncertainty which, no doubt, will have been put an end to before this paper meets the eyes of our readers—we can anticipate no sufficient reason for any change or relaxation of purpose on the part of those who desire the extinction of Church Rates. The chances in their favour, we apprehend, will not be diminished by any conceivable change in the Queen's Administration. The question is one which stands apart from the general policy of the great Parliamentary parties, and its satisfactory solution, whilst it would contravene the pledges of neither side of the House, would produce an amount of political capital large enough to prove a temptation to either. A Conservative Government under Lord Derby could acquiesce in our wishes, with regard to this matter, as easily and as consistently as a Liberal Cabinet under Lord Palmerston or Lord John Russell. To conciliate popular support will be as imperative a necessity in the one as in the other. No Administration conducting a great war, especially after what has recently occurred, can afford to risk being put into a minority on a matter of such public importance as Church Rates. The present time, therefore, is peculiarly propitious—and if, on our part, due energy, promptitude, and firmness be displayed, a successful issue may, we think, be guaranteed.

That our readers may not suspect us of being over sanguine, we beg to recall to their minds a few facts which may possibly have slipped out of their recollection during the excitement of the war. They will remember that Sir W. Clay last session carried his motion for leave to introduce his bill for the total and immediate abolition of Church Rates, by a considerable majority, and that, too, in the teeth of Ministerial opposition. They will bear in mind that the Tories were energetically whipped in to defeat the second reading of that bill, and that in as full a House as can be got together upon a question independent of party, Sir W. Clay lost his motion by a very slender majority. By comparing together the two division lists, it will be found that of all the members who gave a vote on the question last session, a greater number voted with the hon. member for the Tower Hamlets than against him. The conclusion, therefore, to which we come is this—that in any House likely to be brought together on the question, we may command, independently of the Ministry, an available majority. It depends very mainly upon the constituencies whether that majority shall become an active and reliable one. At any rate, we are justified, we think, in affirming that they have in their own hands the materials of success—and the knowledge of this fact will be a weighty argument with any administration.

But this is not all. The war, which would stand in the way of proceeding to settle most other questions of controverted domestic policy, will favour rather than impede our efforts in this matter. At such a time as this, and engaged as this country is in such a momentous struggle with an external foe, it is obviously politic to extinguish, as effectually as may be, every spark of

intestine strife, and, wherever it can be done, to conciliate good-will to our national institutions. The Church Rate, moreover, is, to a certain extent, a drain upon our resources, and its removal would, assuredly, promote cheerfulness under a heavy increase of our fiscal burdens. When we are called upon to contribute largely to the necessities of the State, we shall be disposed to respond all the more readily in proportion as lesser but more vexatious demands upon us are considerably withdrawn. Every Chancellor of the Exchequer must know how desirable it is, particularly in gloomy times, to exorcise from tax-paying, if such a thing be possible, a grudging spirit. Now we do not ask him to remit one farthing of what is due to him—but it is of some consequence that unnecessary drains upon us, which do not benefit him, should be put an end to as speedily as possible. The irritation excited by ecclesiastical demands is very apt to be transferred, in part, to those of the State—as a man gives less generously where he inclines to give, while still smarting under the annoyance of having had his pocket picked. If men in general are most disposed to liberality immediately after dinner, so are the visits of the tax-gatherer least welcome when preceded by the churchwarden. Especially must this be the case with those whose sense of justice has been outraged by the law which abstracts their coin. What we ask, therefore, need not be deferred on account of the war—for the existence of the war furnishes a powerful argument in support of our prayer.

The disorganisation of political parties in the House of Commons at this moment is another circumstance favourable to the object we have in view. In fact, our best chance lies in the disintegration of party, inasmuch as it admits of our getting at members of Parliament in their individual capacity. For some time to come, we can hope to gain nothing by means of party—all our successes must be achieved in spite of it. In ordinary times, one half, at least, of the votes we secure, must, *pro re nata*, be individually detached from party by the sheer force of constituent importunity, or of the justice of our case. But when party ties have been severed, and men vote no longer by word of command, our enterprise becomes incalculably easier. No member will willingly oppose the request of earnest and active supporters among his constituents—and whenever he feels himself constrained to do so, he is usually governed by either the strength of his own convictions, his allegiance to his party, or the counteraction of some other influential portion of his electoral friends. Now former division lists satisfy us that, on the question of Church Rates, we shall not be defeated by any overpowering sense of the worthlessness of our cause. We ask for nothing but what is reasonable and just—thus much is all but universally admitted. Nor have we to apprehend that members—borough members particularly—will be severely pressed from without to uphold the Church-rate system. Well, then, the confusion of parties removes the sole remaining influence capable of withstanding such importunity as we can bring to bear on a majority of the House. The present session strikes us as peculiarly auspicious. We have no right to anticipate a fitter opportunity.

Besides, the prestige acquired by our unexpected success last session, has not yet wholly passed away; although, if not followed up by bold enterprise, it will soon become barren. At present, it adds not a little to our strength. When men are summoned to duties which they would prefer to evade, they look to be solaced, at least, by good chances of success. In the lustre of one victory, it is comparatively easy to march to another—for the same event which inspirits our own troops, strikes dismay into the ranks of our opponents. In a great undertaking like ours, it is to the last degree important to acquire and to preserve the habit of winning. Aristocratic wisdom is not at so high a premium just now as it was last year—it is not, perhaps, quite so self-confident. Its utter break-down in military management will necessitate some show of modesty and conciliation in ecclesiastical economy. 'Tis well to

attack the enemy while still under the influence of panic.

"Seize the passing opportunity," is therefore our advice to our friends. The right deed in the right time and place is true wisdom. Many things are, no doubt, as important, in reference to our main object, as the abolition of Church Rates—some even more so. But we can best settle this question now—and hence our earnestness in insisting on it. We do not counsel the entire neglect of other things—but merely their present subordination to the main duty of the day. What we urge is, a concentration of energy on this one point whilst opportunity favours. And we are glad to know that we are not alone in our desires. The plan of our ecclesiastical campaign has been all but agreed on. We feel certain it will not be frustrated by the backwardness of our friends. As soon as their part has been definitely assigned them, we know that their activity may be relied on. Well, we believe, that steps are being taken to enlist them in the good cause. Before many days we trust to see them heartily responsive. The contest will not, in all probability, be protracted or wearisome—but it must be carried on to the last without flagging. We will say no more. Our work is before us. Let it but be well done, and we shall have the pleasure of congratulating our readers on another most important triumph.

DR. WILSON AND THE REGIUM DONUM.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

Committee-rooms, 2, Serjeants'-inn,
Jan. 29, 1855.

SIR,—I have received from Dr. Wilson the accompanying reply to my last letter, and shall be obliged if you can spare space for its insertion. With the exception of a few additional epithets, I do not perceive that it contains new matter; and I am quite content to leave the controversy between us in the recollection of those who have watched it. Thanking you for the space you have given up to it,

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

CHARLES JAMES FOSTER.

To the Editor of the Banner of Ulster.

SIR,—The incompetency of the London Society to meet my facts and arguments is stamped on every paragraph of the closing letter of their advocate, Dr. Foster. Of that production brevity and feebleness form the leading features; yet its grave mis-statements, as usual, call for correction and exposure. My challenge it is alleged, "relates to three sentences in a lengthened speech of Mr. Bright's." This is incorrect, as any one who may take the trouble of examining will infallibly discover. But even had my attack on Mr. Bright been limited to "three sentences," instead of extending, as it did in reality, to more than three times that number, who does not perceive that a "lengthened speech," or even a whole treatise, may be vitiated by one false statement? In Mr. Bright's oration a few fundamental falsehoods of large growth constituted the basis on which he mainly rested the superstructure of his so-called argument against the Irish Presbyterian Church.

1. The "hush-money" of Dr. Candlish was most unfairly pressed into the service, as the extracts from his speeches distinctly prove. I did not oppose these extracts (!), as Dr. Foster affirms, "by a construction put upon them a year afterwards by Dr. Candlish." Surely Dr. Foster is oblivious, or inattentive. I argued from the first that the only fair and rational construction of Dr. Candlish's words totally disqualified them for sustaining the cause of Mr. Bright and the London Society. I held, and still hold, the interpretation forced upon the extracts by Mr. Bright to be a miserable distortion; and I merely referred to Dr. Candlish himself as explicitly confirming the plain, common-sense construction of his own testimony. Besides, Dr. Candlish explained, not from defective memory, as Dr. Foster imagines, but from the extract itself, voluntarily reproduced for the occasion.

2. Dr. Foster connects another of Mr. Bright's perversions with what he describes as "the relative amount of exertion by the Scotch Free Kirk and the Irish Presbyterian establishment." Here the writer confounds the Free Church with the United Presby-

terian Church of Scotland! But in a drama of blunders what else was to be expected? This latter Church Mr. Bright reduced to half its real dimensions in order to get a hard hit at Irish Presbyterians; and, when I exposed the falsity of his premises, he endeavoured adroitly, but unsuccessfully, to turn my correction to Voluntary account. This ingenious *double* on the part of the hon. gentleman I exhibited in its true character, and Dr. Foster does not even attempt its defence, except by styling it, *euphonis causa*, a new argument!

3. I have denied repeatedly, and I now deny again, "the increase, as stated by Mr. Bright, of the Parliamentary grant in fifty years from £4,000 to £38,000." Dr. Foster's grant of £4,000 forms, in my view, no part of the present Parliamentary grant. At all events, let him show, if he can, that it does. He has entirely mis-stated my case, doubtless from sheer want of acquaintance with the subject. In 1803, the *Regium Donum*, of which Mr. Bright spoke, amounted, not to £4,000 but to £17,000. This latter sum, with such additions as were made from time to time, continued on the Civil List till 1831. At that date the whole of it was transferred to the Irish Estimates, or, if Dr. Foster please, was "sacrificed," not one penny of the entire sum having subsequently reached the Irish Presbyterian Church through the former channel. Mr. Mathews is a favourite authority with Mr. Bright, and here is his published testimony on the subject. "On the report of a select committee of the House of Commons in 1831, the various payments out of the Civil List were all cancelled, and the gross sum is now provided for in the Irish miscellaneous estimates of the year." I have thus "made my case complete." Dr. Foster himself being judge, and dispelled a little more of the London darkness.

4. Dr. Foster is not more fortunate in his reference to the new Presbyterian congregation established in Ireland during the six years commencing with 1847. In Parliament, Mr. Bright, as instructed by Dr. Foster, stated the number to be 74, and, on closer examination, Dr. Foster afterwards reduced the number to 53, which, however, he raised to 60 by the simple expedient of *taking in another year*! On the other hand, I have demonstrated, by the *net increase of the entire grant* for the period specified, that, instead of 53, the number of *five* congregations which *received endowment* does not exceed 31. This I made so plain that it must be intelligible even to the London Liberation Society. But though 31 *new* congregations were *endowed*, it does not follow that 31 were *established*, during the famine period in Ireland. The *establishment* of a congregation, as I have shown, must precede by three years, and may precede by forty years, its *endowment*. This is understood by many a school-boy in Ulster, while your learned professors in England have not mastered it, and yet they fancy themselves qualified to discuss the question. From the obvious distinction alluded to, it follows that 50 congregations might have been *endowed* in the six years mentioned, though not a tithe of that number had been established in the same period. Now, this is my case. In the famine period we organised in Ireland not more than 10 or 11 *new* congregations. Oho famine, as might have been anticipated, laid a powerful arrest on our church extension agencies; but, during the same period, a considerably larger number of new congregations—the fruit of the labours of preceding years—obtained endowment. Dr. Foster is puzzled about this matter, and, though a very courteous opponent, becomes ill-natured withal. *New* congregations, in my sense of the term, "are not recognised (he believes) by anybody but those who get the money." On calm reflection, the writer will probably agree with me in condemning this slanderous insinuation as unworthy of a good cause, and symptomatic only of the weakness or embarrassment of the advocate. If he persists in his statement, let him come to particulars, and he will find me not unprepared to defend the character and claims of our new congregations. But Dr. Foster is evidently sick of the whole affair. He allowed himself, in the first instance, to be put to a task for which he has publicly proved his utter want of qualification. He was doubtless the best man the society had; yet with the very alphabet of the discussion he was barely acquainted. Instead of undertaking at once the work of a journeyman, he should have prepared himself by submitting to the drudgery of an apprenticeship. It may be hoped that for the future, he will recognise the importance of enhancing his high attainments in *jurisprudence*, by a moderate advance in the department of common prudence. That, however, is his own concern.

Meantime, will the London Society, which is so profoundly alive to the interests of religion, persist in circulating Mr. Bright's *speech*, without expunging the statements which *he* and *they* have acknowledged to be *false*, and modifying the reasonings based upon these falsehoods? Mr. Bright has confessed his Scotch error of some 250 congregations. Will the society still issue the original *untruth*, regardless of Friend John's confession? For the six years specified, Dr. Foster has reduced the charge against Irish Presbyterians from seventy-four to fifty-three. Will the society still father the falsehood, in defiance of its exposure by their own officer? I expect them, of course, to persevere in distorting the testimony of Dr. Candlish, and ignorantly, or willfully perverting the history of the *Regium Donum*. I do not expect them to tell the public the truth respecting the number of new Presbyterian congregations (10 or 11) actually established in Ireland during the period of the depopulation, and the actual addition of about thirty-one endowments made to the Parliamentary grant for the same period. To let out the truth on these points does not consist with their objects. But is it to be tolerated that a society calling itself religious shall continue to patronise and disseminate what both Mr. Bright and its own responsible officer have publicly acknowledged to be unfounded in truth and fact? If so, the sooner its Jesuitical tactics are exposed the better for the community on whose

easy gullibility it lives and practises. As it rejoices in a long handle, I shall take leave to style it—"The Society for practically obliterating the radical distinction between Truth and Falsehood."—I am, &c.,

ROBERT WILSON.

Presbyterian College, Jan. 23, 1836.

THE LIBERATION SOCIETY.

BRIGHTON.—The Secretary and the Rev. J. H. Hinton journeyed here on the 30th ult., to address a party invited to meet for the reception of a statement of the society's late operations, and of its plans for the present season. Every one who knows Brighton will believe that it is cold at this season of the year, but the keenness of the wind on this particular day defied every effort to keep up the requisite amount of calorific in the human system, and this, together with the sickness prevailing here, had an unfavourable effect on the numbers assembled. But the proceedings were interesting, and besides the formation of a committee, new friends placed their names on the subscription list. Mr. Unwin presided,—the Rev. J. C. Hooper, and Messrs. Stevens, Grey, Bass, and other gentlemen, took part in the proceedings. It should be added, that the meeting took place in the Pavilion, in what are known as "the King's Rooms"—a most suggestive spot for a disquisition on royal defenders of the faith.

LONDON AND CUCKFIELD.—The first meeting of the Liberation of Religion Society, in communication with these places, was held in Cuckfield Chapel school-room, on the 30th January; the Rev. A. Foyster in the chair. Tea was provided at six o'clock, after which several addresses were delivered, and two resolutions passed; the first, expressive of warm approbation of the principles and procedure of the society, so fully exhibited in the explanatory statement of Mr. Williams, the secretary; and the second, appointing a committee for the furtherance of the good cause in the neighbourhood. So cheering and practical an effect was, under the circumstances, very encouraging; and though the severe state of the weather and the prevalent epidemic disabled numerous sympathising friends from coming, the attendance included some of the most respectable and intelligent of both the places represented in the meeting.

HACKWORTH, NEAR LEEDS.—On Tuesday evening, 30th ult., a meeting was held in the Wesleyan Reformers' Chapel in this town, at which the Rev. E. S. Pryce and Mr. Hickman Smith were present on behalf of the Liberation Society. William Rhodes, Esq., took the chair. On the motion of the Rev. D. Horne, seconded by F. Sykes, Esq., thanks were heartily given to the deputation for their addresses, and a good contribution is expected.

MORLEY, YORKSHIRE.—On Monday, January 29th, a lecture was delivered by Mr. W. Hickman Smith, in the school-room adjoining the Independent Chapel. The Rev. J. Reeve occupied the chair, and there were about 120 persons present. At the conclusion of the lecture, various questions were put relative to the disposal of Church property, to which satisfactory answers having been given, a resolution, expressive of sympathy with the objects of the society, was unanimously adopted. Measures are now being taken by several friends to procure a subscription list in this neighbourhood.

COMING MEETINGS.—Mr. Pryce, the society's travelling secretary, and Mr. W. Hickman Smith, are to attend soirées or public meetings in Lancashire as follows:—Heywood, Feb. 13th; Darwen, Feb. 16th; Blackburn, Feb. 19th; Wigan, Feb. 20th; Bolton, Feb. 21st; Bacup, Feb. 22nd; Burnley, Feb. 23rd. Cards of invitation to a soirée at Camberwell-green Chapel School-rooms, on Wednesday the 21st, are also about being issued.

ST. PAUL AND ST. BARNABAS, KNIGHTSBRIDGE.—Mr. Charles Westerton, the churchwarden of St. Paul, Knightsbridge, proceeded in the Consistory Court against the Hon. and Rev. Robert Liddell, incumbent of St. Paul and St. Barnabas, Knightsbridge, for the purpose of restraining him from certain Tractarian observances. The allegations are that a "high altar" had been set up, that candlesticks and crosses were placed thereupon, and that a marble credentia, or preparatory altar, had been erected. The episcopal monition directs that all these articles shall be forthwith removed, and that there shall be substituted, in lieu and stead thereof, a decent communion-table for the administration of the Lord's supper, or that Mr. Liddell shall show cause to the contrary in the Consistory Court.

ARE UNBAPTISED INFANTS ENTITLED TO CHRISTIAN BURIAL?—This question has been raised (says the *Brighton Herald*) by the chaplain of the consecrated portion of the Brighton Extramural Cemetery—the Rev. Mr. Cook. Three or four weeks ago the bodies of two infants were brought into the ground for interment, and the chaplain (or his deputy, who acts with his sanction) was in attendance, the parents of the children being members of the Church of England. But, previous to the coffins being taken into chapel, the question was addressed by the rev. gentleman to the undertakers, whether the children had been baptised? In one case, a reply in the negative was given; in the other, the undertaker refused to give any answer, denying the authority of the clergyman to put it; and, thereupon, the rev. gentleman assumed that the child had not been baptised, forbade its entrance into the chapel, and refused to perform the Burial Service over it at the grave. The bodies of both children were, consequently, put into the ground without any religious rites, to the great distress of the friends and relatives, and to the indignation of the persons assembled on the spot; among whom, we are told, quite a "scene" took place. Since this occurrence, the bodies of two other children have been taken to the cemetery under similar circumstances, and have been treated in the same

way; leaving no doubt of the intention of the chaplain to lay it down as a rule, that the bodies of infants who have died without being christened (whether unavoidable or not), shall not receive Christian burial. We understand the bishop of the diocese has been applied to to give his opinion upon the point; and that his lordship, after saying that he knew of no Canon or Rubric which called upon the clergyman to put the question, and suggesting that, if put at all, it shall be put before the corpse was brought for interment, declined to "speak with authority" upon the case, but referred the interrogant to a proctor.

"THE SYSTEM."—The *Wisebech Advertiser* gives the following sketch of the parish of Tyd St. Giles:—"This little parish has been paying, for many years past, from £1,000 to £1,200 per annum in the shape of tithes and glebes, and it may not be uninteresting to give a thought as to what has been received in return. It is said, in former times, the clergy were not only required to *preach* to the people, but also to *teach* them, *beside maintaining the poor, and the fabric of the church*; but the two latter have so long been thrown upon the inhabitants, in the shape of *poor-rates* and *church-rates*, both in this parish and in all others, that they may be at once dismissed—but not so the two former; and how so many of our Church clergy can sleep quietly at night, or sink into their graves with a calm conscience, considering how little they do for the instruction of their flock, is most surprising. Too many, alas! think they are performing their duties by reading, in a monotonous, school-boy manner, a couple of sermons on a Sunday: as for *teaching* the people, either juvenile or adult, they are wholly above that—they consider the former, both religious and secular, the duty of the *schoolmaster*, and the latter of nobody; and thus they avoid three out of the four duties for which they are paid by the tithes and glebes. The worst of it is, in sadly too many cases, the schoolmaster is only a man of small abilities, a badly-paid parish factotum, his time chiefly occupied with the different rates and accounts of the parish, which the ignorance and inability of the parishioners prevents them doing themselves, therefore, the whole is badly done, and is a disgrace to the age we live in. As regards the parish in question, the rector is non-resident, and has been so many, many years; the law being so bad as to allow him (the present one) to have two livings, therefore, he could not reside at both—and the duties have been done by deputy—by a *curate*—a person who, in sadly too many cases, where he has nothing else to depend upon, is worse off than a mechanic, being expected to live respectably and be charitable, when he is probably not receiving one-tenth of what the parishioners are paying for the duties he is performing, the other nine-tenths being paid to the non-resident rector, who, as regards the parish (*notwithstanding his two livings*), has lived so extravagantly, that his *benefices* are *sequestered*, or, in other words, the funds are divided between lawyers and creditors, in the shape of wine merchants, Jew money-lenders, and other similar characters; the consequences of all this is, that the people are sadly neglected, the curate thinking more of shepherding sheep than immortal souls, and it would be difficult to find a parish where the adults rank lower in education and intelligence than this, and the juveniles are growing up in ignorance and immorality; indeed, here is such a number of idle, dissolute, ignorant, and disorderly young men roaming about, whose chief delight is in poaching, skittle-playing, and other low amusements, that it is to be hoped, if the war leads to impressment, that this will be one of the places that the press-gang will pay an early visit to."

Religious Intelligence.

SALFORD.—The Rev. Mr. Dunckley has resigned the pastoral oversight of the Baptist Church in Salford.

BAPTIST CHAPEL, MAKE POND.—It is stated that the Rev. J. Aldis has resigned the pastorate of the church assembling at this place.

WINDSOR.—The Rev. James Macfarlane, of Holmfirth, Yorkshire, has accepted a unanimous invitation to the pastorate of the Independent church, William-street, Windsor, and enters on his labours on the third Sabbath in February.

THE BISHOP OF LINCOLN.—The sixth lecture to the working classes of Nottingham, on the Evidences of Christianity, was delivered on Thursday evening last, the 1st inst., in St. Mary's Church in that town. The entire edifice was again crowded by a very attentive congregation, a vast number belonging to the working classes.

CHARD.—Mr. William Densham, senior student of the Western College, has accepted a unanimous invitation from the church and congregation assembling in the Independent Chapel of this place, to become their pastor. The vacancy has been occasioned by the removal of the Rev. W. H. Griffiths, B.A., (for 15 years their pastor) to the Classical and Mathematical Professorship of the College at Plymouth.

BOXFORD, SUFFOLK.—The Rev. E. B. Hickman having accepted a most cordial and unanimous invitation to the pastorate of the Independent Church at Wells, Norfolk, the congregation at Boxford lately under his pastoral care arranged a public tea-meeting to bid the rev. gentleman farewell, and to present him with a testimonial of their esteem and affection. On Wednesday, January 24, upwards of eighty friends assembled in the vestry adjoining the chapel. Robert Kersey, Esq., of Hadleigh, presided. Addresses were delivered by the Rev. J. P. Palmer, of Hadleigh, and other friends. The Chairman, after a very admirable address, then presented the testimonial, which consisted of a well-filled purse. Mr. Hickman has lived amongst his people more than eight years.

VOLUNTARY EDUCATION.—The new school-room

recently erected at the rear of the Congregational Church, Middleton-road, Dalston, was opened on Monday, Jan. 23. Tea was provided gratuitously by the ladies of the congregation, and of which 450 persons partook. The public meeting commenced at seven, under the presidency of S. Morley, Esq., supported by Revs. C. Dukes, J. Kennedy, T. W. Aveling, E. Manning, J. Vinay, W. S. Edwards, and J. Unwin, Principal of Homerton College; W. H. Watson, Esq., of the Sunday School Union; H. Rutt, Esq., and other gentlemen. Several practical speeches were made, and the result of the appeal to those present to pay off at once the small remaining balance of about £35 was completely successful, the building being opened entirely free from debt, the result of united exertions by pastor and people; nearly £60 was also promised for the fittings, including £20 from the Chairman. The room was occupied on Sunday, June 28, by 400 children, when special addresses were given by the Rev. C. Dukes, Messrs. Forsyth and Battley, superintendents; and W. Brady, secretary. Day-schools for boys and girls were commenced on the following day.

ALSTON CHAPEL, MOORFIELDS.—The second anniversary of the ordination of the Rev. John M'Farlane, B.A., as minister in this place of worship, was celebrated on Sunday, the 28th ult.; Mr. M'Farlane preaching in the morning; the Rev. Mr. Brook in the afternoon; and Dr. Archer in the evening, to large and delighted audiences. The same event was commemorated on the Wednesday evening following (the 31st ult.) in the Baptist Hall, Moorgate,—kindly lent for the purpose—and, notwithstanding the severity of the weather, the great room was crowded to the door. After tea, provided by the ladies, appropriate and interesting addresses were delivered by Mr. M'Farlane (in the chair); Mr. Binney, on the Churches generally; Dr. Archer, on the Presbyterian Churches in particular; Mr. Michael, on the Sunday-school; Mr. Alderman Wire, to the Young Men; Mr. Logan, on the Finances; Mr. M'Whirter, on the Anniversary; Dr. Pletcher, on Christian Harmony and Goodwill; Messrs. Kirk and Langton, congratulatory and grateful—particularly to the Baptist body—for the gratuitous use of their convenient and interesting hall. The meeting, which consisted of Christians of all denominations, broke up about 10 o'clock.

Correspondence.

SCUTARI HOSPITALS.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—The following extract from a letter dated 15th January, from the Rev. C. E. Hadow, resident chaplain of Scutari Hospital, to the Rev. A. S. Page, of St. James', Preston, has been forwarded to me by the latter gentleman with a request, that the Weekly Tract Society would endeavour to supply the want he mentions.

"If you know any benevolent people who wish to benefit our hospitals, tell them they cannot confer a greater favour than by sending judiciously selected tracts, nicely bound up, say three together, in brown paper covers. The men value them much, and our stock is small. Let them be directed to me, and consigned to Valassalli and Co., Constantinople. There is some chance, then, of my getting them."

The Weekly Tract Society, as you and many of your readers are doubtless aware, have already sent to the East, besides several hundred pounds' worth of books, nearly two hundred thousand of its tracts. These, for the most part, have been distributed in the Crimea, while not a few have been forwarded to Mr. Hadow. The committee, however, are most anxious to supply the Scutari Hospitals with the tracts in paper covers as suggested by the chaplain, and have already made preparations to do so; but as their Crimean Fund is inadequate to this outlay, they earnestly appeal for such assistance as shall enable them to proceed with this work as long as it shall be required.

I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,

ROWLAND ELLIOTT, Secretary.

Weekly Tract Society Depository, 62, Paternoster-row.

Parliamentary Proceedings.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

PETITIONS PRESENTED.

Book of Common Prayer, for revision of, 1.
Intoxicating Drinks, for prohibiting the sale of, 3.
Metropolitan Stage Carriages, for removal of duty on, 7.
Militia Act, for amendment of, 1.
War with Russia, for vigorous prosecution of, 1.
Decimal Coinage, in favour of, 2.
Grain for Distillation, for prohibiting, 2.
Newspaper Stamp, for repeal of, 2.
Probate Duty, for repeal of, 1.
Foreign Office, for inquiry into (D. Urquhart), 1.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME.

Passengers Act Amendment Bill.
Fisheries (North America) Bill.
East India Railway Bill.
Bills of Exchange and Promissory Notes Bill.

BILLS READ A SECOND TIME.

Passengers (North America) Bill.
Fisheries (ditto) Bill.

CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE.

Fisheries (North America) Bill.

BILL READ A THIRD TIME AND PASSED.

Fisheries (North America) Bill.

DEBATES.

RESIGNATION OF MINISTERS.

In the House of Lords, on Thursday, the Earl of ABERDEEN formally announced that all the members of the Government had resigned office in consequence of the vote of the House of Commons on Monday. In resisting Mr. Roebuck's motion, Ministers did not desire to prevent inquiry into their conduct, for he believed it would fully establish that no indifference had existed to the wants of our army in the Crimea, or any absence of exertion and preparation for the

supply of those wants and for promoting the efficiency of their condition. Especially did he think that the more the conduct of the Duke of Newcastle was inquired into, the more would it be found marked by a degree of assiduity, labour, interest, and attention to the duties of his office that have never been exceeded, and he believed never could be. (Hear, hear.)

My lords, I am not at all surprised at the feeling which generally prevails throughout the country. The public, although they may not reason deeply, always feel rightly, and feel strongly. (Hear, hear.) They see that misfortunes have occurred beyond the ordinary course of the calamities of war, and they very naturally turn to the Government as the object of censure, as it is to them that they look for the efficiency of the army and the right management of the war. I make no complaint with respect to this. I think it perfectly natural, and am ready to submit to the natural consequences. (Hear, hear.)

He thought the sufferings and privations of our troops in the Crimea had been exaggerated. There had been great individual suffering, but he saw no cause whatever for discouragement or dismay on looking to that condition. On the contrary, he saw every reason to indulge the most sanguine hopes of ultimate success. (Hear.)

In the first place, the condition of our own forces has been recently greatly improved, for the provisions, the clothing, and all the other appliances have been recently increased, and very much tended to improve the actual condition of our troops. Our ally, the Emperor of the French, has told his Legislative body, and through them has told Europe, that his army consists of 881,000 men. Since that time he has ordered an additional levy of 140,000; and with such a force as this, animated by the determined zeal with which he has espoused the cause in which we are both engaged—I say such a force as this, if employed in anything like the same proportion in which we have devoted our army to the service, we are entitled to look with the utmost confidence to the issue of the war. (Hear, hear.) Then, my lords, we have recently concluded a treaty with the King of Sardinia, by which there are placed at our disposal, for immediate embarkation to the Crimea, 15,000 admirable troops, to be put under the command of Lord Raglan. (Hear, hear.) That is a most valuable and important addition to the forces in the Crimea. In addition to this, my lords, we have concluded a treaty with Austria, which is now brought to a point from which the most important advantages may be confidently anticipated. We have come to an understanding with the Austrian Government upon the terms of the peace that we have agreed to propose to the Emperor of Russia. The Austrian Cabinet has agreed to adopt those proposals, and the Russian Minister has accepted, or professed to accept, those conditions so proposed, so understood by the allied Powers. (Hear.) Now, my lords, Austria has also engaged that, if these terms be not accepted and do not lead to the conclusion of a peace, she will be prepared to join her military efforts to our own. You see here, then, that there is the alternative of a peace which will acquire all the objects for which we are contending; or we shall receive the assistance of that great military Power, whose army is to be raised to the amount of 600,000 men. (Hear, hear.) With these prospects it is impossible to conceive or to entertain unworthy apprehensions, notwithstanding those casualties to which all armies are liable. (Hear.)

The noble lord then adverted to the promising condition of the country, as respected its internal condition, especially its finances, taking occasion to praise the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and also Lord Clarendon for his arrangement of the negotiations with Austria, in the consistency and good faith of which Power he had the most entire confidence. After adverting to the measures of last session, he said:—

My lords, the present want of the country is a strong Administration. (Loud cries of "Hear, hear.") How that is to be formed it is not for me to say. Rumour has asserted very confidently, that the noble earl opposite (Lord Derby) has been commanded by Her Majesty to undertake the formation of an Administration. Seeing him in his place, I presume this is not the case. But be this as it may, every one must admit the necessity that exists for a strong Government, and I trust the patriotism of this House will not be wanting in the promotion of that object. (Hear, hear.) I can only say for myself, and I believe I may speak for those who act with me, that any Administration that may be formed by Her Majesty will receive from us that support which at the present time is so urgently required by the great interests of the country (cheers), it will receive from me any degree of support which it may possibly be in my power to give it.

The Duke of NEWCASTLE rose to give some personal explanations as to his conduct while at the head of the War Department, explanations which were imperatively called for by the observations which had fallen from Lord John Russell in another place. When the question of dividing the offices of Secretary of State for the Colonies and Secretary of State for War was discussed in the Cabinet, he had distinctly said,—“The Cabinet having now decided that the two secretariats shall be divided, all that I can say, as far as I am personally concerned, is, that I am perfectly ready to retain either or neither.” (Hear, and cheers.) Yet, in the face of this expression, Lord J. Russell has asserted that he had yielded to his (the Duke's) “strong wish” to occupy the War Department. (Hear, hear.) Nor, though Lord J. Russell asserted it, had he ever heard at that time that the noble lord had expressed any wish that Lord Palmerston should fill the post of Secretary for War. The noble Duke then went at length into the correspondence between the Earl of Aberdeen and Lord John Russell with respect to the resignation of the latter, and showed that, so far as he was concerned, the step had been quite gratuitous on the part of Lord John Russell, for he (the Duke of Newcastle) had expressly said to Lord Aberdeen, when Lord John Russell was complaining of his conduct—“Don't give my Lord J. Russell any pretext for quitting the Government. (A laugh.) On no account resist his wishes to remove me from office. Do with me whatever is best for the public service. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) In that way you will gratify me the most. In that way you will be serving the Queen best.” (Renewed

cheers.) The errors of which Lord John Russell had complained, and on which he laid so much stress, were errors of detail and not of policy, and in fact had been explained, and that so much to the noble lord's satisfaction, that in a letter, dated Oct. 8, he concluded:—“You have done all that could be done, and I am sanguine of success.” (Hear, hear, and cheers from the Opposition.) The noble lord was sanguine of success; he thought I had done all that could be done. (Hear, and cheers.) The noble duke then referred to the conversation which passed between the Earl of Aberdeen and Lord John Russell on the 16th of December, when the latter expressly said that he had altered his views as to the necessity of a change at the War Office, assigning as his reason, that he had been convinced by the arguments laid before him by a friend [Lord Parnham]. From the language of Lord J. Russell, it might be supposed that he had proposed measures which his colleagues had been unwilling to adopt. He could only say that, to the best of his (the duke's) belief, that never was the case. (Hear, hear.) He knew of no measures ever proposed by the noble lord which were rejected; he knew of no proposals which he made which were not accepted, unless it be one. That proposal he referred to himself, in this form. He said that, at a Cabinet which was held on the Saturday before the Tuesday—the day of Mr. Roebuck's notice and the noble lord's resignation—arrangements were made by which the mode in which the business of the War Department had been for some time conducted, by calling together the heads of the military departments to his (the Duke's) office, and conducting the business somewhat in the form of a board, though not with the formalities and strict rules of a board, was to be altered. A discussion having taken place in the Cabinet that day, and an agreement having been made that greater formality should be given to those boards, and that they should be regularly constituted, either by a minute or by an order in Council, he (the Duke) stated that he differed from the noble lord as to the propriety of such boards. Lord John's opinion, however, prevailed, and it was agreed that, either by a minute or an order in Council, those boards should be constituted, consisting of the Secretary of State for War, the Secretary at War, the Commander-in-Chief, and the Master-General of the Ordnance. The noble lord said that that question had been brought before the Cabinet, and he implied that it had been decided upon adversely to his opinion. That was not exactly expressed by the noble lord, but was the inference that might be drawn. Instead of that, however, the proposal was brought forward by the noble lord himself, and agreed to after a discussion, and there was every reason to believe that the noble lord was entirely a consenting party; but in the course of that meeting he sent to Lord Aberdeen a proposal to which he also referred, but which he did not quote in his statement:—

As it is of some importance to my case, however, I fear that I must read it. It is as follows:—

ARMY DEPARTMENTS.

January 22, 1855.

The Committee of the House of Commons on Army and Navy expenditure recommended that the Army Departments should be simplified and consolidated. What is now proposed is, that there should be a board consisting of—1. Secretary of State; 2. Secretary at War; 3. Master-General of Ordnance; 4. Commander-in-Chief; 5. Inspector-General of Fortifications.

It is contemplated that there shall exist at the same time a Board of Ordnance, consisting of—1. The Master-General; 2. the Storekeeper-General; 3. the Surveyor-General; 4. the Clerk of the Ordnance; under whose directions the Inspector-General of Fortifications will remain. It was obvious that these two boards, acting at one and the same time, instead of consolidation and simplification, would produce complication, disorder, and delay. There are but two modes by which unity of direction and rapidity of action can be procured. The one is to give the Secretary of State the entire direction of all existing offices and boards connected with the army; the other is to make a board, with the Secretary of State at its head, absorbing the Board of Ordnance, and controlling the whole civil management of our military force. The constitution of this board and its functions would be:—

1. The Secretary of State, to preside over the board and be responsible to Parliament.
2. The Secretary at War, to pay the army and control its finances.
3. The Master-General of the Ordnance, to arm the army and the navy.
4. The Commander-in-Chief, to command the army.
5. The Clerk, Storekeeper, and Surveyor of the Ordnance, all in one, to lodge the army.
6. The Commissary-General, to clothe and feed the army.

This is nearly the Duke of Richmond's plan.

J. RUSSELL.

My lords, the noble lord said in his statement in the other House that he had no reason to think that his views would be adopted. Now, I can only say most positively, in answer to that statement from the noble lord, that I had no reason to think that his views would be rejected; because the first step which my noble friend took, upon receiving the communication was, after having shown it, I think, to the Secretary at War, to send it to me for my opinion. My answer was that there were but two proposals in that paper which differed from the arrangements in the Cabinet of Saturday—one was to do away with the Board of Ordnance, in consequence of the constitution of a superior board; and the other was to add two more members to the board beyond those which were proposed in the Cabinet. I said, as regarded the first proposal, that I thought that it was manifestly right. With regard to the second proposal, for placing two additional members on the board, I said that I thought that it would be inadvisable. Therefore, so far as the main and principal portion of the noble lord's proposition was concerned, it met with entire approval; and, as regarded the second portion, the only reason against its being carried into effect with respect to one of the appointments was, that it was impracticable, because no such appointment existed. (Hear, hear.)

In fact, upon all questions thus raised he believed there was more identity of views between the noble lord and himself than between any other member of the Cabinet. Before the meeting of Parliament, he had informed Lord Aberdeen that, in consequence of the strong feeling manifested by the public, he should feel it his duty to resign the office of War Minister, and that he should do this whether the Government were in a majority or not. He did not immediately

resign because he felt that he ought to face the ordeal of censure in both Houses of Parliament. No doubt this was the origin of the incorrect rumour referred to by Lord John Russell, that the arrangement he had proposed in November was about to be adopted. He should have objected to exchange offices, for he would not have continued a member of the Government at all—seeing that with the obloquy heaped upon him, his presence in the Cabinet must be a cause of weakness and not of strength. The noble Duke concluded with a touching reference to his own position:—

My lords, various accusations are made against me, of which one of the most prominent is that of incapacity. I should be the last man who ought to express any opinion upon that point. I am ready to leave that in the hands of others, perfectly conscious of many defects. But, my lords, other charges have been made, which I confess I have felt deeply and continue to feel deeply. I have been charged with indolence and indifference. My lords, as regards indolence, the public have had every hour, every minute of my time. To not one hour of amusement or recreation have I presumed to think I was entitled. (Hear, hear.) The other charge, of indifference, is one which is still more painful to me. (The noble duke, who was evidently much moved during this portion of his address, continued in a tone of deep emotion.) Indifference, my lords, to what? Indifference to the honour of the country, to the success and to the safety of the army? My lords, I have myself, like many who listen to me, too dear hostages for my interest in the welfare of the military and naval services of our country to allow of such a course. I have two sons engaged in those professions, and that alone, I think, would be sufficient; but, my lords, as a Minister—as a man—I should be unworthy to stand in any assembly if the charge of indifference under such circumstances could fairly be brought against me. (General cheering.) Many a sleepless night have I passed, my lords, in thinking over the ills which the public think and say that I could have cured; and which, God knows, I would have cured if it had been within my power. Indolence and indifference are not charges which can be brought against me; and I trust that my countrymen may before long be satisfied—whatever they may think of my capacity—that there is no ground for fixing that unjust stigma upon me. (Cheers.) As regards what I have done during my official administration, I believe—I trust and hope at least—that I shall be one who may derive some advantage—I wish to God I could think that the public could derive any—from the investigations of that committee which the House of Commons has decided to appoint. I can only say, so far as I am individually concerned, that I shall rejoice to lay before the committee everything which I have done, with perfect fairness and open-handedness. (Hear, hear.) I am no more inclined to shrink from any attack now that I have quitted office than I was when I held it; and I will not shelter myself when that motion comes on [Lord Lyndhurst's] by the circumstances of my resignation. I shall speak in answer to my noble and learned friend on whatever side of the House I may sit, and most assuredly I shall not shrink from meeting him. I shall be ready to defend, whenever it is assailed, the conduct of the Government—the conduct, in the first place, of my own administration; and, in the second place, the conduct, as involved with me, of the whole of the Cabinet. (Hear.) Your lordships shall not hear from me one word of complaint with reference to the treatment which I have met with either in Parliament or out of it; and I only refer to it now to enable me to say that, whoever may be my successor in the office which I lately held, he shall meet with no ungenerous treatment from me. My lords, I know that I have in both Houses of Parliament many bitter political foes; I trust that I have few, if any personal enemies. (Hear.) But if I have one—that man I will not exempt from the promise which I have made; but to him, as to a friend, will I offer every assistance in my power. If my past experience can be of the slightest value, he may claim it, and shall have it, whether he takes my acts as a warning or as an example. My lords, he shall meet with no feelings of petty jealousy on my part; the crisis is too important, the interests involved are too great for the display of any such contemptible feeling. (Hear, hear.) Out of office, I shall rejoice in the success of any man who succeeds me as a Minister, whether that success be achieved in consequence of better fortune or of greater ability than I possessed. I will now conclude what I fear has been to your lordships much too long a statement. (Cheers.) I will conclude the last speech which I shall address to your lordships from these benches, with the earnest prayer that he who may receive from the Queen the seals of the War Department may bring to bear upon his arduous labours far greater ability and equal zeal, earnestness, and devotion with him whom he succeeds. (Loud cheers.)

The Earl of Derby denied the vote of Monday was the result of a concert; a mistake which the duke quickly corrected. The vote, said Lord Derby, emphatically, did not proceed from any one party; and more than that, the party directly opposed to the Government were earnestly recommended to abstain from bringing forward any motion of censure tending to embarrass the Government. Lord Derby was jocular on the theme of the picture of the Cabinet "peint par soi-même" in the Duke of Newcastle's speech; and he suggested that Lord John Russell and the Duke of Newcastle should meet in the central Hall of the Parliament Palace, in the presence of both Houses, and "exchange words." With some raillery of Lord Aberdeen for excess of caution in alluding to "a rumour," he informed the House that her Majesty had commanded his attendance on Wednesday, and had honoured him with a long audience on the subject of an Administration; but that in the present state of parties and of the House of Commons, he found that he could not accept the task of forming a Government which her Majesty had committed to him. He quite agreed with Lord Aberdeen that the country requires a strong Government; and, whatever Government might be intrusted with her Majesty's confidence "to carry on the affairs of the great war, and the great political affairs in which the country is now involved, that man is undeserving the character of a patriot, or of an honest man, who does not to the utmost of his power, give to the Government of the Queen his disinterested and, as far as he can, his cordial support."

The House then adjourned until Monday.

In the House of Commons, Lord PALMERSTON briefly informed the members present that Ministers had resigned; and on his motion, the House adjourned; to meet again on the following day, in order especially that Sir De Lacy Evans, who would then take his seat, might receive the thanks of the House in person.

VOYE OF THANKS TO SIR DE LACY EVANS.

On Friday the House of Commons presented an unusual scene. At twenty minutes past four o'clock Sir De Lacy Evans, who was introduced by Colonel Freestun, one of his old aide-de-camps in Spain, and Sir John Shelley, entered the House, attired in the uniform of a general of division. The hon. and gallant gentleman, who looked remarkably well, despite of a recent wound in the cheek, the traces of which have not entirely disappeared, was loudly cheered as he walked up the floor to the first seat below the gangway on the Ministerial side. The members at both sides rose as he entered, and saluted him with enthusiastic and repeated plaudits. The hon. and gallant gentleman having taken his seat,

The SPEAKER addressing him, said:—

Sir de Lacy Evans, I have to inform you that, on the 15th of December last, the House of Commons *unanimously* agreed to the following resolutions:—"That the thanks of this House be given to Lieutenant-General Sir De Lacy Evans, Knight Commander of the Most Noble Order of the Bath, and several other officers therein named, for their gallantry, ability, and distinguished exertions in the several actions in which her Majesty's forces were engaged with the enemy." Lieutenant-General Sir De Lacy Evans, it is with feelings of pride and satisfaction that this House welcomes the return of one who has borne so distinguished a part in the brilliant achievements which have characterised the present war. (Loud cheers.) At the battle of the Alma you encountered with admirable coolness and judgment the almost insuperable difficulties to which you were opposed, by the advance of the gallant Second Division. You repulsed the formidable attack of the Russians on the 26th of October, and the energy and valour with which you led the troops on that occasion will ever be honourably recognised amongst the most brilliant deeds of arms. (Cheers.) But it was on the heights of Inkermann that you displayed that undaunted courage (loud and continued cheers) and bravery which have drawn forth the admiration of your countrymen (cheers), when rising from a bed of sickness, you hastened to assist with your counsel and experience the gallant officer in temporary command of the division, and refused to withhold from him the honour, while you shared the danger, of the attack. (Cheers.) Your conduct throughout this memorable campaign has been marked by the same intrepid gallantry which distinguished your early military career, and which has earned for you the highest honour it is in the power of this House to bestow. (Cheers.) It is now my agreeable duty, in the name and by command of the Commons of the United Kingdom, to deliver their unanimous thanks for your zeal, intrepidity, and distinguished exertions in the several actions in which Her Majesty's forces were engaged with the enemy. (Loud cheers.)

Sir DE LACY EVANS, who remained standing during the address of the Speaker, in acknowledging the compliment, remarked that it was a novelty to him: he thought he was as good an officer twenty years ago, and had been as successful in a more important duty than that which he had recently endeavoured to discharge. However, he thanked his political opponents for their kindness on the present occasion. He was sorry to be obliged to advert to Lord John Russell's official statement in moving the vote of thanks, which had very much astonished him; and in supplying the omissions of that statement, General Evans furnished one test of the value of Lord John's opinion upon military subjects. "The noble lord gave a sort of theatrical description of the battle of the Alma, which reminded one of the opinion of the witty Sydney Smith, who we all know said that the noble lord considered himself capable of commanding the Channel fleet. It is evident that the noble lord considered himself a better judge of the transpositions of the battle of the Alma than Lord Raglan." The noble lord described this battle rather minutely, and seemed to imply that the battle was won by the First and Light Divisions, and omitted all notice of the conduct of the Second Division. Now, the fact is, that Lord Raglan has represented in his despatch that the two leading divisions on that occasion were the First and Second. It is quite clear that the noble lord passed the Second Division by from a total obliviousness of its services, and thus caused inferences to be drawn, perhaps, which might reflect grievously upon it." Lord John gave all due credit and honour to the gallantry displayed on the 25th October, but entirely passed over the more successful action on the subsequent day, especially mentioned by the French as well as the English Commander-in-chief. "It appears, again, in reference to the battle of Inkermann, in which the Second Division was engaged as much as in either of the other actions, that the noble lord made no reference to that Division, which suffered so severely, and which for one hour bore the brunt of the attack of 20,000 men. (Hear, hear.) That Division is the only one which was engaged prominently in three general actions, and I do really think that that Division, and myself, have some reason to complain of the noble lord for having made that official statement to the House. I beg pardon for making this explanation, but I do think that I have a claim for some indulgence; but it is not on my own account. (Hear.) I feel deeply grateful for the honour which you, Sir, have paid to me. I should like certainly to say a few words—but I believe this is not the proper occasion—with regard to those who are still struggling gloriously in this contest. I do hope, though I am not prepared to take an arduous or constant part in the transactions of this House, that I may have an opportunity of expressing my opinion on that subject. I can only say, that I am convinced that the manifestation of the approbation of this House to so humble an individual in that army as I am, will have some considerable weight

in animating the feelings of my brother soldiers. Again I thank the House most deeply and gratefully for its kind opinion towards me. (Hear.)

Lord PALMERSTON moved that the speech of the Speaker, and so much of what had fallen from Sir De Lacy Evans as expressed his thanks, be printed in the votes of the House.

Mr. WALPOLE, concurring in every word of Sir De Lacy's speech, seconded the motion, which was agreed to *nem. con.*

BALAKLAVA.

In the House of Commons, on Monday, in reply to a question from Mr. DEEDS, Admiral BERKELEY stated that the reports of waste and disorder in Balaklava harbour were much exaggerated. The masters of many transports had sent letters, from some of which he read extracts, expressing their satisfaction at the arrangements made in that port. According to the latest accounts, he added, the pre-existing state of confusion had been rectified, and the harbour was now in excellent order. He read the following extract from a report of Captain Robert Methden, of the steam-transport Colombo, of 1,800 tons:—

The gale threw everything into confusion; but by great exertions a re-arrangement was effected, and since then the most watchful care of the shipping, in all cases which seemed to require interference, seems to me to have been afforded. The pilotage of the port, under Captain Powell, requiring the largest ships to be handled under critical circumstances, has caused me repeatedly to express my most unqualified admiration. This duty has called for incessant labour, and it has been bestowed with the most untiring zeal, temper, and cheerfulness, and with an ability not to be surpassed by the most practised hand. On such occasions, when Captain Powell could not himself attend, or when two heads were better than one, I observed that Captain Heath was himself always present. For some weeks past (say four) large boulders have been placed for securing moorings of a light description; and in other respects, having three times entered and departed from this port, I have to state that every application for assistance to either Captain Heath or Captain Powell has been responded to, and I consider the present state of the harbour a marvel of exact arrangement (laughter), and the amount of accommodation afforded only to be exemplified by one of the crowded docks of Liverpool.

LORD JOHN RUSSELL'S EXPLANATION.

In the House of Commons, on Monday, Lord J. RUSSELL rose and observed, that since Monday last there had appeared in public what was stated to be a speech of the Duke of Newcastle, which he could not refrain from noticing without allowing grave errors to be established in public opinion. That speech, he said, placed the question in the light of a dispute between the duke and himself, and not upon the broad ground which he (Lord John) wished it to be placed upon. He stated the substance of communications made by him to Lord Aberdeen, at the end of the last session, on the subject of the composition of the Cabinet, the defects to which it was exposed, and the necessity that the war should be prosecuted in a vigorous and judicious manner, observing that it was of the utmost consequence in whose hands should be entrusted the conduct of a war. "Sir, it appeared to me at the end of last session that the composition of the Cabinet was such that, *not relying on party support*, it did not create any great attachment or enthusiasm." Under the circumstances, the House, he was sure, would not think it unreasonable that he, being the principal member of the Government to answer if that House for the conduct of the war, should watch with the utmost care its prosecution. The Duke of Newcastle objected to the statement he had made that he (the duke) had a strong wish to hold the office of War Secretary. He (Lord John) had founded that statement upon what he had heard from various members of the Cabinet; and a letter of Lord Aberdeen, implying that the War Department had been chosen by the duke, he considered bore out the statement. "The noble duke said I wished to have his office myself. If Lord Aberdeen had asked me to hold that office, I should have considered it my duty, though far from my wish, to hold it; although it was an office so very alien to any habits of business I had formed, I would have accepted it with very great reluctance." With respect to the errors which it had been said he had imputed to his Grace, Lord John explained with more precision what he really said.

My belief is, as I have stated, and as I will now state that if the Prime Minister had been a man whose pursuits and disposition would have led him constantly to overlook and hasten the preparations and dispositions of the war, the Duke of Newcastle would have been found perfectly competent for his department. I believe, also, that if Lord Aberdeen had had for War Minister a person of extraordinary energy and authority in office, proved by the offices he had before held, the Earl of Aberdeen would have been a Prime Minister fit to conduct the war to a successful issue. But I do not think that the combination did ensure the efficiency of the public service. It was, sir, it was in entire conformity with what I now state, that I addressed a private letter, on the 8th of October, to the Duke of Newcastle, in which I stated "You have done all that can be done." He had proposed measures which, however efficient, had been over-ruled by other departments; it did not depend on him to do more; but, at the same time, I wrote to another colleague, "That it was very desirable that the Prime Minister should, from time to time, lend to the War Department that authority which it needed."

A more important point, he continued, was the avowal that he had withdrawn his proposition and changed his opinion; and here he remarked that there had been two questions, totally distinct—one touching persons, and the other relating to arrangements in the War Department—and he expounded the sentiments he had entertained and expressed upon each. It was very likely, he admitted, that he ought to have pressed the question in the Cabinet to a decision, and, if it were decided against him, to have resigned; but he wished, he said, to remain in the Cabinet as long as possible.

As events went on, various questions with respect to the war were brought under discussion, in all of which I endeavoured to give the best assistance to Lord Aberdeen, the Duke of Newcastle, and the Cabinet—with a view to improve the state of the army, and provide for future success. At the same time I must say that, with respect to some of those questions—with respect, for instance, to the question which was raised in this house by my hon. friend the member for Aylesbury (Mr. Layard) during last session, as to the necessity of some provision, some consultation for the next campaign, I was not satisfied. My hon. friend pointed out the danger of the Russian army in Asia being largely reinforced, and spoke of the necessity of providing some defence against a Russian invasion in that quarter. That most important subject occupied my mind very much; and I did not find that I met with the support from Lord Aberdeen which I had hoped I would have had when the subject was brought under the consideration of the Cabinet; but, however, sir, I still continued a member of the Government. My noble friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department said the other night, in answer to the statement which I made, that I had not taken the right time or the right mode; that before the meeting of Parliament I ought to have brought under the consideration of the Cabinet the mode in which a motion for inquiry was to be encountered, and then stated the deficiencies which I thought existed with respect to our military arrangements, both as regarded the office of Secretary for War, and the other arrangements to be made for carrying on the war. I will not say that my noble friend was mistaken in that view. (Hear, hear.) I am quite willing to admit, when I perceive an error, that I have committed that error. (Cheers.) I have no hesitation in saying, that it was an error on my part not to have fully considered the position in which I should be placed if a motion for inquiry should be made after the opinion which I had expressed on the subject in question. But, having committed that error, I felt that I should be guilty of a still greater error, that I should be guilty of an error in morality—and there can be no sound politics without sound morality (cheers); that I should be guilty of an error in morality if I stood up in this House and opposed inquiry, telling this House to be perfectly satisfied with the arrangements which were then going on, while at the same time in my own mind I was not satisfied, and did not feel that they were very likely to be satisfactory in the end to the country. (Cheers from both sides of the House.)

It had been suggested that he might have waited until the Government were defeated, and then resigned with his colleagues; but that course would not have been satisfactory to his mind; and there was another alternative, the Government might have had a majority. "A majority might have declared in favour of the Government, partly in consequence of my assurance; and then, while still dissatisfied with the war, I should have had upon my mind the responsibility of having induced the House of Commons to decide as it would have done. (Loud cheers.) Well, sir, after all this obloquy, I must say I am very glad that I did not incur that responsibility." (Hear, hear.) He had been struck, he said, with a statement from the Duke of Newcastle which was new to him—namely, that before the meeting of Parliament his grace had placed his resignation in Lord Aberdeen's hands.

Now, sir, as I have said, I was totally ignorant that any such resignation had been offered (cheers); and if my resignation were hasty, I must say that I think my noble friend's advice to the Queen immediately to accept it, without any further communication with me, was somewhat hasty. (Cheers.) I think it was due to me that he should have informed me of the communication which he had received from the Duke of Newcastle, and we might then have considered together whether the motion for inquiry could be resisted upon good and sufficient grounds. (Hear, hear.) Be that, however, as it may, my resignation was laid before her Majesty, and on the following evening I received a letter from Lord Aberdeen, accepting it. And now, sir, you will perhaps permit me to say that, having been subject to many slanderous attacks, on account of the course which I then pursued—having been made a mark for obloquy for the last week, on account of the step which I then took—I have only to say, that if my past public life does not justify me from the charges of selfishness and of treachery (loud and general cheers), I will seek no arguments for the purpose of defending myself. (Renewed cheers.) It is not that I am indifferent to such calumnies; but I do hope that I have anticipated them by the course which I have pursued during a somewhat extended public life. And here I must observe upon one phrase which is said to have been used by the noble duke to whose speech I have just referred. The noble duke said to the Earl of Aberdeen, after my first letter had been received, "Do not give Lord J. Russell a pretext for leaving the Government—accept his proposition." Now, sir, I must say, that considering that for nearly two years I had been a subordinate member of Lord Aberdeen's Government—that I had consented, after holding the office of Prime Minister for five years and a half, to serve under Lord Aberdeen, and had done my best to promote the success of his Government—that I had assented to the diminished importance of the great party to which I belong—I must say I think such a sneer on the part of the Duke of Newcastle was somewhat misplaced. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) I wonder it should not have occurred to him, "This objection to my continuing to hold the office may be a sincere one; it may even be possible that there is some deficiency in my (laughter) management of these great affairs." It does not seem to have occurred to him as within the range of possibility that he could have been otherwise than absolutely faultless in his conduct of his office (laughter), or that I could have any other than some indirect motive in wishing for a change in the department over which he presided. (Laughter.)

Lord John then detailed the failure of his endeavours, at the command of the Queen, to form a Government, which he felt it incumbent upon him, he said, not to shrink from, but he encountered insuperable obstacles; and, in conclusion, he noticed the remarks made by Sir De Lacy Evans upon his speech in moving the vote of thanks to the troops in the Crimea. He was exceedingly sorry, he said, if he had omitted to do honour to the gallant Second Division, or to notice the heroic acts of Sir De Lacy at the battle of Inkermann. He trusted that a time would come when thanks would be voted by Parliament to the army before Sebastopol, not only for their gallantry, but for

their resolute endurance of privations and hardships. He concluded:—

I am sorry to have been obliged to make a fresh statement to the House with regard to my conduct; but the House will feel that the honour of a public man is of some value (hear, hear); and I may say for myself that, whatever errors of judgment I may have committed, I will not, while I have a seat in this House, be deprived of the character of a man of honour. (Cheers.)

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, after advertising to the inconveniences attending these replies in one House to speeches in another, proceeded to supply, as he stated, some corrections of the narrative of Lord J. Russell. As to the assumption of the office of War Secretary by the Duke of Newcastle, it was only necessary to say, that it took place with the full, unqualified, and unhesitating sanction of the entire Cabinet. With regard to the alleged change of opinion on the part of Lord John, and his suggestion respecting the two questions, Mr. Gladstone remarked, that Lord Aberdeen and his colleagues had not the means of ascertaining the distinctions between the two questions in Lord John's mind. "Sir, it is not for me to say what was the state of my noble friend's mind at that time. His own testimony on such a subject, whether in this House or any other place, must be absolutely conclusive (hear, hear); but what I wish to point out is this, that my noble friend at the head of the Government, and the colleagues of my noble friend the late Lord President, had no means of ascertaining the distinction thus drawn." Mr. Gladstone repeated the statement he made last week:—

Lord Aberdeen took an opportunity, on the 16th of December, in conversation with my noble friend, of referring to the correspondence which had taken place as to the notice which had been given by my noble friend behind me (Lord J. Russell) to his colleagues, of his intention to make his remaining in the Government contingent upon the adoption of certain arrangements, or, at all events—which may be another way of stating it—in consequence of the non-adoption of certain arrangements, to withdraw from the Government. The Earl of Aberdeen said my noble friend stated at that period that he had changed his opinion. The statement was, that he had changed his intention: and so far as my recollection and impression of the written testimony of my noble friend (Lord Aberdeen) enable me to judge, he certainly was not cognisant of any such distinction as has been stated to exist between the arrangement with regard to departments and the arrangement with regard to the persons who should fill them.

With respect to the arrangements for the coming campaign, he was quite sure Lord John Russell would acquit him and all his late colleagues in reference to that matter. "It was impossible to make any provision in compliance with any suggestion of his on that subject, because we had no notice whatever from him that he desired that such provisions should be made." (Laughter.) He thought that Lord John Russell had made an erroneous version of what the Duke of Newcastle had said on the subject of his resignation, which he did not place in Lord Aberdeen's hands, but merely intimated to the earl how he intended to act at a future period. "Had his intention been made known, he would, I think, have been placed in a false position towards the Government and towards Parliament; and I am quite certain that nothing could have been more incompatible with the character and feelings of Lord Aberdeen, than to have made that communication known to his Cabinet in general, and kept it back from my noble friend the member for the City of London." (Hear, hear.) Mr. Gladstone wound up as follows:—

Sir, it is obviously most desirable that, if possible, this matter in controversy should be wound up. (Laughter from the Opposition.) I have confined myself to matters of fact. I hope I have kept my promise tolerably well; at any rate, I have not knowingly or wilfully wandered from it. I trust that nothing has fallen from me which makes me, in any sense, by connivance or otherwise, a party to the charges of treachery and selfishness which have been brought against my noble friend. (Cheers.) The man deserves contempt who can make such charges. (Renewed cheers.) From those who have been his colleagues my noble friend knows well they will never in any form receive countenance. (Hear, hear.) I have only endeavoured to supply some omissions, more or less material, in what we had heard; and having accomplished that task, I will not pursue the matter any further. (Cheers.)

After some remarks by Lord EBRINGTON, expressing a hope that public men would lay aside their differences, so that an efficient Government might be formed for the successful prosecution of the war, the House adjourned at a quarter to six o'clock.

THE MINISTERIAL INTERREGNUM.

In the House of Lords, on Monday, the Earl of ABERDEEN acquainted their lordships that the Home Secretary had been commissioned by the Queen to form an Administration, and was still engaged in perfecting arrangements for that purpose.

After this intimation, and having passed the Fisheries Bill, which had just been brought up from the Commons, through a preliminary stage, the House adjourned at half-past five o'clock.

In the House of Commons, on the same day, the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER adverted to a communication which he had received from Lord Palmerston, setting forth that the reason which on previous evenings had induced the House to postpone the transaction of public business still remained in full force, and therefore moved that the various bills which stood on the paper for progress that evening, with the single exception of the Fisheries Bill, should be adjourned to a future day.

MISCELLANEOUS.

In the House of Lords, on Monday, the Lord CHANCELLOR said that he had received a letter from Admiral Dundas, acknowledging the vote of thanks of their lordships' House; also another letter from Admiral Dundas, enclosing one from Admiral Hamelin, the

Admiral of the French fleet, acknowledging the honour which had been conferred on him and the French navy under his command by the vote of the House. He moved that the letter be laid on the table.

The Earl of SHAFTESBURY, on Monday, asked a question on the subject of the meeting of Convocation. As no business could be carried on or instituted by Convocation without the sanction of the Queen, he wished to know if some prorogation ought not to take place till a Minister was appointed who could give that sanction? The Archbishop of CANTERBURY said that the business to be transacted by Convocation was merely the continuance of business which had been commenced at a previous Convocation. The Bishop of LONDON said the meeting of Convocation was to enable them to consider the report of a committee which had been appointed by themselves.

THE WAR.

SIEGE OF SEBASTOPOL.

OFFICIAL DESPATCHES.

The Gazette of Friday contains the following despatch from Lord Raglan to the Duke of Newcastle, Minister of War:—

Before Sebastopol, January 15th.

MY LORD DUKE.—The fall of snow has been very great for the last three days, and it is now fully a foot deep, which I am assured is a very unusual occurrence in this part of the Crimea.

This circumstance adds materially to our difficulties in obtaining fuel; but detachments of Turks are posted near the coasts to bring up wood cut by parties of our own, in the neighbourhood of the monastery of St. George, to the nearest division.

I am happy to say that the number of wounded in the sortie with the Russians on the night of the 12th inst. was only six, instead of thirty-six, as erroneously stated in my despatch of the 13th; and that it was altogether a less serious affair than was at first supposed.

I enclose a return of casualties between the 12th and the 14th, inclusive.

Last night the enemy attacked the French advanced trench in considerable force, but were repulsed after a short contest, and some loss on both sides.

(Signed)

RAGLAN.

Return of casualties from the 12th to the 14th instant, inclusive:—Total, 13 rank and file wounded; 1 sergeant, 12 rank and file, missing. Lieut. H. Battiscombe, slightly wounded.

The French Minister of War has received the following despatches from General Canrobert:—

Before Sebastopol, Jan. 24, received at Bucharest, Feb. 3.

The weather has become milder and more favourable. The troops have supported their recent trials with admirable firmness, and the extreme severity of the season has not shaken their confidence one instant. We have reason to hope that the intensity of the winter has already disappeared in the Crimea. We are resuming the works before the place with fresh activity.

Sebastopol, Jan. 28.

General Ulrich and the Voltigeurs of the Imperial Guard have just arrived. The troops are animated with an excellent spirit, and are full of enthusiasm. The weather continues fine: we take advantage of it for completing our works.

By a telegraphic despatch of the 27th, via Marseilles, I announce to you the arrival of General Niel and Colonel Wauvert de Genlis.

The French Minister of Marine has received the following telegraphic despatch from Vice-Admiral Bruat:—

Montebello, Jan. 28.

The weather continues very fine. Our batteries have received orders to keep themselves in readiness for reopening their fire.

TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

The following is a telegraphic despatch from the Times correspondent in the Crimea, dated Balaklava, Jan. 27:—"There is no firing on our side. The weather is frosty at night; very mild and fine during the day. The siege works are advancing. The army is still sickly. Prince Menshikoff has gone northwards. The Russians make constant sorties, and continue firing upon the French lines and pickets. Supplies are gone up to the camp in abundance. The French Eighth Division has arrived. The British ship Sphinx has also arrived. Lord Raglan visited Balaklava on the 24th of January, and had an interview with Admiral Lyons. He inspected the trenches on the 25th. There are only eight Russian battalions near Tchorgoun."

The Russians in Sebastopol were throwing up an embankment to connect the detached bastion with the other works.

The Vienna papers publish a despatch ascribed to Prince Menshikoff, dated Sebastopol, Jan. 28, stating that no change had taken place in the state of affairs before Sebastopol. From time to time the French and English throw shells and rockets into the town, but the damage done is unimportant.

CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE CAMP.

THE HARSHIPS OF OUR SOLDIERS, AND HOW THEY ARE ENDURED.

Our officers who are out here exposed to such hardships read with indignation the letters of Indian officers, who, fresh from all the luxuries of warfare in the East, think that the honest complaints of men in such plights as I have described proceed from pusillanimous grumblers. Do those gentlemen know that, with snow three feet deep about the tents, the men scarce know what fuel is in many regiments; that they break up the rum-barrels, and even the packsaddles—seize, in fact, anything that will burn to cook their meals, or grub into the earth for roots and stumps to light their fires? I know that during two hard days of frost and snow, when, if ever, a full supply of rum was requisite to keep up the spirits and strength of the men, one mess at least had

no rum at all on one of these days, and only a half-ration on the other, and that in the same regiment where this occurred the return of men under arms fit for duty was about 230, and that of men sick and unfit for duty was 350! Now, let no one imagine that these things are made public with any view of creating public despondency. No: they are made known that the country may be aware of the privations which her soldiers endure in this great winter campaign, and that she may be prepared to reward with her greenest laurels those gallant, noble hearts, who in such a position deserve the highest honour. Here no man desponds. The poor worn-out, exhausted soldier, before he sinks to rest, sighs that he cannot share the sure triumph—the certain glories—of the day when our flag shall float from the citadel of Sebastopol! There is no doubt—no despondency out here. No one for an instant feels diffident of ultimate success.—*Times Correspondent.*

THE NEW GENERATION IN THE CRIMEA.

The generation of six months ago has passed away; generals, brigadiers, colonels, captains, and men, the well-known faces of Gallipoli, of Bulair, of Scutari, of Varna, of Aladyn, of Devna, of Monastir—aye, even of the bivouac at Bouljanak, have changed; and there is scarce one of the regiments once so familiar to me which I can recognise now save by its well-known number. What a harvest Death has reaped, and yet how many more are ripe for the sickle of the Great Farmer! It is sad to meet an old acquaintance, for all one's reminiscences are of noble hearts now cold for ever, and of friend after friend departed. And then comes,—"Poor fellow! he might have been saved, if—." Except Lord Raglan, Lord Lucan, and Sir R. England, not one of our Generals now remains of those who came out here originally; the changes among our brigadiers and colonels have been almost as great. Sir George Browne, the Duke of Cambridge, the Earl of Cardigan, Sir George Cathcart, Sir De Lacy Evans, General Tylden, General Strangways, Brigadier Ben-tinck, Brigadier Goldie, Brigadier Buller, Brigadier Adams, Brigadier Torrens, Brigadier Cator, Lord de Bosc—all have been removed from the army by wounds, by sickness, or by death. And so it is of the men themselves. Regiments which served through the cholera campaign of Bulgaria, and which have not been renewed by strong draughts, are now reduced to the number of strong companies, and every day the war lasts under its present conditions has its own lengthy obituary.—*Times Correspondent.*

SIGNS OF IMPROVEMENT.

It is gratifying to be able to note an improvement in the condition of our own troops. The arrangements of the hospital ships in Balaklava also are improved, and the hospitals on shore are better managed and better provided than they used to be. The returns of sickness and mortality in camp show a slight decrease, but the strength of the army has been very materially diminished for the time by illness. When Lord Raglan visited the hospital in Balaklava the other day he witnessed a very different scene from that which others saw a short time before his Lordship came down, but even then he was obliged to call the attention of the medical officers to the complaint made against the arrangements and accommodation for the sick. His inspection of Balaklava was attended with great advantage, and promises to be followed by still greater benefits. In the first place, the confusion and suffering consequent on the old mode of sending down hundreds of patients from camp at a short notice, without any previous inquiry, will be henceforth obviated, inasmuch as proper notice will be given to the medical authorities to provide for the reception of the sick before they are sent down to Balaklava, and the number to be provided for will not be exceeded. Next, the various heads of departments—the tails as well—were at last made to feel that they were not exempt from surveillance, and finally the internal police and administration of the town, which had been in the course of improvement, under the control of Captain Haines, the Commandant of the place, and of Mr. Deacon, the Town-Adjutant, received renewed impetus in the same direction.—*Times Correspondent.*

THE FIRING IN FRONT.

Both parties have now become so expert that their greatest pleasure is to try and "do" each other by getting up "dummies," and exhibiting devices to draw fire, so that they may have a chance of returning it while the marksmen are exposed. The old dodge of putting up a shako or forager on the end of a stick is universally despised, and not a shot will be thrown away on one. Moving them along with an irregular motion just above the top of the ramparts or trenches, as if a man were walking along, is sometimes successful, and the lucky fellow who gets a ball or two through his headpiece in this way is considered very clever. The men now know each other—that is, they observe certain gunners in the Russian batteries whom they have seen for some time past, and who have nicknames. "There goes Red-cap!" or, "Blackbeard is going to take a shot at us now;" and so on; and there is a story going that pickets occasionally fraternize, as they were wont to do in the Peninsula, and that they are all agreed as to the Shibboleth—"Bono Franzig!" "Bono Inglis!" "Bono Muscov!" "Turco, no bono!"

LORD RAGLAN AND HIS STAFF.

A correspondent of the *Times* attached to the fleet, but who has "a very good opportunity of seeing a good deal of what is going on on shore" sends a very interesting letter under dated Jan. 16, consisting chiefly of damaging criticism. He thinks it is mainly owing to the fact that there is no military genius in the Crimea that the army is now before instead of in Sebastopol. "The consequence of this want of a really superior mind is a compromise, much politeness, and heaps of good counsels, and the results are mistakes, misunderstandings, inactivity, and ill-success." "But if the

divided generalship forms, according to my opinion, one of the chief difficulties in this expedition, it is increased tenfold by the incapacity which the members of this body have displayed. In the French army this is less striking, because, with the strictly defined system which prevails in a French army, the organization may be kept up by men of second and third-rate talent. But in the English army, only a man of first-rate talent can succeed, for he must have ideas and genius to feel, as if it were by instinct, how far those ideas may be carried out in practice. Now, Lord Raglan shows neither ideas nor genius—not even energy. He seems to live in the past rather than the present. But, with all his recollections, he seems to forget that imitating a few peculiarities of the old Duke makes a great general just as little as taking snuff imparts the genius of a Napoleon. He tries to copy, and is, therefore, as usual, a caricature of the original. Because the Duke did not care about exposing himself when it was necessary to do so, he exposes himself often where it is not wanted; nay, he exposes himself for the sake of exposing himself, instead of choosing his position where he could best overlook and direct the action. The Duke was cold and harsh with his soldiers; Lord Raglan caricatures him, and his coldness assumes the character of indifference. During the late storms the troops were for several days short of rations, without firewood, their tents blown down, and they themselves starving, shivering, and overworked. What would it have been to him to put on a waterproof, to ride about the camp and cheer up the men; but no one ever sees him, and I am bound to say that 19-20ths of the army don't know him. Those around him say the English soldiers must be treated so; their general ought to be for them a superior being, inaccessible to the *petites miseres* of the soldier, who is supposed to be always only doing his duty."

"The English army, famous for its discipline, is now, as far as organization goes, like a rabble. It would be difficult to say in what department there is the greatest disorder. From the Quartermaster-General's office to the last commissariat clerk it is one mass of confusion. Lord Raglan sends his orders, if he does send any, and supposes that they are executed. How far this goes you may judge if I tell you that since he left Balaklava he never once went there to convince himself by his own eyes how things were going on. And things are going on there in such a way that Balaklava has become a byword for everything bad, dirty, stupid and absurd. And not without reason."

BALAKLAVA ONCE MORE.

Balaklava has already had four commandants. Captain Hamilton, Assistant Quartermaster-General, lost his health from the dank mass of putrefaction which oozed through the chinks of his gate and steamed under his windows, and which he was not able or energetic enough to remove. Another Assistant Quartermaster took his place, and the mire was as deep and as pestilential as ever. After doing nothing for some months, Colonel Daveney was removed from the command of the town. Colonel Haines then succeeded. He has retired and has been succeeded by Major Harding. Of the task the Major has before him, some notion may be formed from the following extract from the *Daily News* correspondence:—"It is late, but it is not too late. If the suggestions which this letter contains are attended to at home—if peremptory orders are sent out to put a stop to the evils of which I complain, these orders will just come in time to cleanse our depot of Balaklava of its abominations before the sun regains its power, and develops those deadly distempers of which at present we have but faint but yet dark foreshadowings. Let it be remembered that Balaklava contains our depôts, our stores, our transport fleet, and our hospitals; that even if Sebastopol is taken in February, its harbour will not be available before the end of May; and that during two of the most dangerous months thousands from the camps must daily descend into the pestilential atmosphere of this town. If those in command are permitted to pursue the course they have hitherto pursued, if corruption is foisted on corruption, and abomination on abomination; if the yards are allowed to remain dunghills; if the streets and the beach remain fetid with corrupted animal matter; if hundreds of dead horses strew the sides of the harbour and the valley up to Kadikoi; if the hundreds that die each week in our own hospitals, and those of the Turks are still buried in that plain on the Kadikoi-road, within a hundred yards of the town, where already the smell makes horses start and sniff while men feel faint; if the Turks, who laugh at our mild expostulations, are still permitted to cover their dead with a few inches of ground on the hill-side, just above the houses at Balaklava, from whence every flood of rain carries down rank, rotten parts of human bodies and distempered gore—if idleness, superciliousness, and stupidity combine to continue this atrocious state of things, and wink at practices more befitting swine than men,—then does it require no prophetic spirit, but the most knowledge of the nature, the causes, and the propagation of disease to foretell that this depot and this army will be more than decimated by a disease which hath not its like in the annals of military history; and that the months of April and May will cost us more men than three battles and the cold and starvation of this winter season cost us. I speak advisedly when I say that nothing but the most energetic measures will now to a degree avail to stave off putrid fever in its most malignant form, and that nothing but extreme pressure from without will ever induce those whom it concerns to do their duty in this respect."

CONDITION OF THE FRENCH CAMP.

Some uncertainty seems to prevail as to the actual condition of the French forces during the severities of winter. It has, probably, been represented too much *couleur de rose*. Some of the letters received at Marseilles from the French camp, dated the 12th inst., speak of the

condition of the French army in terms almost as discouraging as those published in the London papers with regard to the English. It is said that the thermometer had fallen 10 degrees below freezing point, that many of the soldiers had been frozen to death in the trenches, that cholera had broken out with unusual violence in the French camp, that numerous desertions had taken place, and that several men, whose minds gave way under their sufferings, had committed suicide. Few officers, it is said, wish to communicate these facts, fearing to cause unnecessary pain to their families. On the other hand, the same letters admit that the French have pushed their siege works up to the very town, that they have mined the Flag-staff Battery, and that the allies may enter the place whenever they think it expedient. A French officer, under date Jan. 8, says:—

"Our men and ourselves suffer a good deal. During these days of intense cold the fire of the guns had ceased on both sides, and the shots we fire at each other are very irregular. A great deal of our misfortune is to be attributed to our community of action with the English, who have little idea of military organization. We have already transported more than 3,000 of their sick on our mules to the port of embarkation. Not long since our transports were employed in bringing up their ammunition. Every day detachments, to the amount of 700 men of our troops, are ordered to bring up, each man on his back, from Balaklava, projectiles of all kinds to enable them to continue their siege operations. The few means of transport they possess, and which consist of rickety carriages, hardly suffice for the transport of their daily rations."

Another letter, dated Kamiesch, Jan. 15, contains the following:—

"Since the 1st of January we have lost about 1,000 horses, frozen to death. We are beginning to despair of the fall of Sebastopol, seeing our army reduced to so weak and wretched a condition. The English army's condition is still more deplorable, and that of the Turks worse again. If the reinforcements expected do not speedily arrive, they will scarcely suffice to fill up the voids. Within three weeks, 18,000 men have been landed at Kamiesch, and 800 sick have been shipped thence for Turkey. Add to these the dead and killed in the different divisions, and you may form an idea of our situation. Our excellent General-in-Chief visits every day the trenches and the camp, and does everything in his power to allay the sufferings of the troops."

630 French soldiers had arrived at Constantinople with legs and arms frozen!

EXTRACTS FROM PRIVATE LETTERS.

"The sufferings of the troops are very great; death and disease on every side. Some of the regiments recently arrived, and principally composed of young men, are reported to be nearly *hors de combat*. I write this in a well-worn canvas tent, the snow eight inches deep without, the ink now half frozen, and totally so almost every night. That any exist astonishes me, for even the miserable tent must at least half the week be exchanged for the open trenches. However, no matter what we have to suffer, doubtless some will survive; but very few who originally encamped before Sebastopol will, I am very much afraid, leave the ground. With regard to the raw reinforcements, they die three to one in proportion to the veterans. This is indeed a sad tale, but it is true."—*A Non-commissioned Officer, Jan. 20.*

"We are in two feet of snow, but, as there is no wind at present, it is not uncomfortable. The article in the *Times* of the 23rd ult. has given intense satisfaction throughout the army, except at head-quarters; it is so very true. It has done great good already; more energy is displayed by our heads of departments; and the Commander-in-Chief goes out every day to inspect some portion or other of the camp. It is really painful to think of the utter neglect of the most common precautions—the ignorance and indifference rampant throughout every department."—*An Officer, Jan. 15th.*

"The men have been in rags till lately, and the houses are at Balaklava, and I cannot see how they are to be got up. Sixty men were sent down the other day to bring up one hut for the hospital, and they have only brought up a third of one. It takes 180 men to carry one. . . . I must tell you a good story that is told here. When Sir C. Campbell went to meet a flag of truce after the battle of Balaklava, he was asked who the people were who fought in potticoats. Sir Colin answered, 'They are the wives of the men who ride the gray horses.' I think that charming."—*Letter, Jan. 15.*

"If the town of Sebastopol be assaulted before the capture of the northern forts, the allies will probably succeed in entering the body of the place, for nothing that Russia can oppose will withstand the valour of their matchless troops; but mark the result which may ensue, the most likely result will be, that such of the assailants as may escape destruction from mines, barricades, and loopholed walls, will be annihilated—pounded into dust by the overwhelming fire of the northern forts."—*Col. Elers Napier.*

"Men die daily from the cold in the trenches, for they cannot walk about without being shot by the enemy. Toes and feet rot off from being frostbitten; mortification and death ensue, which is a happy release from a miserable or slow torture,—nay, no language can picture the sufferings of our army in their night duty. It is wonderful how they exist at all; and yet, although the men are ragged and worn down by disease and fatigue, they seem to go about their duties cheerfully; but the floggings are numerous and really grievous, for a man cannot withstand the demands of nature. After a certain amount of fatigue a man must sleep, even though death were staring him in the face all the time."—*Letter from Pera, Jan. 27.*

"I cannot describe to you half the misery of which we are daily witnesses. The *Times* of the 23rd gives some little insight into what is going on, but even that depicts in very mild terms what is daily and hourly occurring here. There is not a single officer in this

place who would not tell you he believes, on his oath, that three-parts of the misery here has been occasioned by the gross neglect and want of foresight of our commander and those connected with him; hundreds—ay, thousands of lives might have been saved if even the most common prudence had been observed. I do not feel for the officers, they have the means of making themselves comfortable; but my heart bleeds for the soldiers, dying and suffering every fearful sort of disease, and exposed meantime to the most inclement weather, without even the protection of warm clothing. Lord Raglan and his staff occupy a large house, and live in luxury, and one of them actually complains 'that his window faces the north!'—*A Field Officer's Wife*, Jan. 13.

SCRAPS AND GOSSIP.

The general opinion in the camp is, that the next two months will pass without active operations.

On the 18th of January, Lord Raglan again visited Balaklava.

The French gunners threw a shell, about a week since, into the centre of the Russian arsenal, but it did not explode.

You may consider the winter here very much like that of Great Britain, with perhaps the snow lying a bit longer when it does come.

Though rather deficient in most things, I am happy to say we can get lots of "baccy" and pipes. I am well and jolly, and like my work.

In one division which I know of 210 gallons of rum are drunk every day, and it is all required. The consumption of the whole army must be about 1,000 gallons daily.—*Times Correspondent*.

The commissariat consumes and uses up horseflesh at the rate of 100 head per week, and each of these animals costs on an average, £5. The Turkish force is losing men at the rate of 20 and 30 a-day.

The following general order appeared on the 14th of January, 1855:—"The Commissary-General will forthwith take measures to supply the divisions with fuel daily."

Do you wonder why we are all so fond of jam? Because it is portable and come-at-able, and is a substitute for butter, and butter is only sent out here in casks and giant crooks, one of which would exhaust the transport resources of a regiment.

If the gallant Highlanders [who occupy the heights over Balaklava] ever wear the kilt now, *tis for punishment!* Brecks—low-lived brecks—and blanket gaiters, and any kind of leggings over them, are the wear of our Scottish Zouaves.

About three weeks ago Mr. Bagot Smith bought at Constantinople about £5,000 worth of horse clothing; it is now all much damaged, torn, and greatly worn—in fact, it is nearly destroyed. The horses lie down in the mud, and the clothing once saturated, cannot be dried, and speedily rots and tears.

Quick must be the remedy—nay, instantaneous,—else there will be no English army left, notwithstanding the numerous reinforcements. There are now, as it is, not more than 12,000, if so many, efficient men left; the 7th, I know positively, has seventeen men under arms fit for duty.—*Times Correspondent*, Jan. 16.

The other day the Golden Fleece brought up several hundred sheepskin coats, but, somehow or other, without an invoice; of course, nobody would take charge of them under such circumstances, and so they were hung up in the rigging, instead of on the backs of the poor shivering fellows in the trenches.

We have only been four months or so at Balaklava, so you must not imagine that there are as yet wharfs. But no, I am wrong; there are some places which are dubbed by that name, being a heap of biscuit or corn bags, pack-saddles, trusses of hay or of warm clothing, or fascines and gabions, thrown *pete-mele* on the shore.

The latest information given by deserters, and notably by two deserters who some days ago surrendered to a picket of the 91st, is, that 30,000 fresh troops were, some ten days ago, brought to Simpheropol on sledges. This is exactly one of the deserters' stories in which I am inclined to have faith. *Daily News Correspondent*.

It appears that the mining operations at Sebastopol had been carried to an enormous extent, and that some officers and soldiers now in the French hospital have been within the walls of the city, and brought off, among other trophies, a couple of greyhounds and some altar ornaments, which are displayed with much pleasure to visitors.

As a newly-arrived and freshly-mounted officer was riding along one of the narrow paths to the camp, he called out to a man who was toiling along with a sack of biscuit on his shoulders, the last of a long file similarly engaged, "Now, then, soldier, out of the way, if you please." The man turned his head round, and, with an expression I never shall forget, exclaimed, "Sojer, indeed! Faix we're no sojers! we're only poor broken down old commissariat mules!"

Solemn flights of wild geese, noisy streams of barnacles, curlew, duck, widgeon, dippers, dappers, divers, and cormorants, wheel over the harbour of Balaklava, and stimulate the sporting propensities of the seamen and boys, who keep up a constant fusillade from the decks at the bewildered bipeds. Huge flocks of larks and finches congregate about the stables and the cavalry camps, and are eagerly sought after by our allies, who much admire this *petite chasse*, which furnishes them with such delicate reliefs to the monotony of ration dinners.

A very laughable affair has just happened. An English officer, now a prisoner in Sebastopol, had a letter sent him from a young lady in England, to the effect that she 'hoped when he took Menschikoff prisoner, that he would send her a button from his coat, for her to keep as a relic.' The letter was yesterday forwarded by a flag of truce into Sebastopol, with other letters for prisoners in the enemy's hands. This letter fell into Menschikoff's own hands, of course to be read ere

delivered. On coming to the above passage, he immediately cut a button from his coat, and sent it out under a flag of truce, to be conveyed to the lady, with a remark to the following effect:—"That he had no idea yet of being taken prisoner, but rather than disappoint a young lady of so simple a request, he would fulfil her wish himself before the time arrived." You may rely that the circumstance has actually occurred."—*Morning Post Correspondent*.

THE EXPEDITION TO EUPATORIA.

The *Moniteur* announces that "the differences which had arisen between Omar Pasha and some members of the Divan have, as might have been expected, been entirely settled." Jemal Pasha, his enemy, and yet the actual commander of his reserves, is placed under his orders, and Omar Pasha preserves the authority as well as the rank of "Generalissimo of the Sultan's European army," conferred on him last year.

We have some interesting intelligence relative to the state of Eupatoria, in a military point of view. The town, it appears, is well fortified; the army can operate on the rear of the enemy, and proceed, in three different directions, towards Simpheropol, which is 60 kilometres distant therefrom, to Baktchi-Serai, at a distance of 68 kilometres, or to Perekop, from which it is only separated by 104 kilometres. Those three points contain all the magazines and the reserves of the Russian army. Although protected of late by extensive works of defence, they are, nevertheless, vulnerable, and may be seriously menaced. Commander d'Osmont has protected Eupatoria against a surprise by an *escuade continue*, by barricades and military posts stationed at the gates, which were left open. The place is now in a perfect state of defence. On the 9th December the first Turkish troops of Omar Pasha's army began to arrive. The movement has since continued. The town, independently of the 25,000 Tartar refugees, can shelter 15,000 men and upwards of 1,200 horses. The remainder of the Ottoman army, which will consist of 50,000 men, is to encamp outside the town, in very good positions. The allies are completing a number of closed and isolated redoubts on the line of hills, so as to make Eupatoria one of the strongest and most useful towns to the allies in the Crimea.

The *Military Gazette* of Vienna states that, besides the Turkish forces of Omar Pasha, two strong French divisions are also to assemble at Eupatoria, under the command of General Pélissier, to operate against the communications of Simpheropol, and to take possession of Perekop, the key of the Crimea. The Piedmontese forces of General La Marmora are to land under the protection of the fleet of the Black Sea in the Gulf of Kassa, and to hold the approaches to the Isthmus of Arabat. The Piedmontese detachment will be reinforced by British and French troops. It is probable that General Cannon, who, some weeks ago, reconnoitred the Gulf of Kassa, will join the Piedmontese general. Lord Raglan and General Bosquet are to operate on the right bank of the Tchernaya, and General Canrobert, with the staff and the reserve, is to remain before Sebastopol, in order to support and cover the operations.

VARNA: AND ITS COMMISSARIAT DEPOT.

The *Daily News* correspondent at Varna writes on the 17th of January:—"The English depot is slowly and by degrees disappearing from Varna. In a few days more not a vestige of this magnificent and efficient establishment will be left beyond an immense number of dead horses, whose carcasses strew all the roads and fields, and scent the air for an English mile and a half round the town." He then describes how, before the starting of the expedition to Sebastopol—Colonel Dickson had succeeded in purchasing at £7 each about 2,500 ponies for the baggage. They were left behind in charge of the depot. The army sailed in the middle of September. During the remainder of the month, as well as during the month of October, the weather was magnificent. These were the last brief hours of comfort the ponies enjoyed. In the beginning of November the winter began—rain, mud, wind, &c.—the pack animals being now picketed in a large open space between the town and walls, exposed to the pitiless pelting of every storm, without any covering of any sort whatever, they stood in mud knee high; they lay down in mud; they ate off mud; they were covered with mud; and they never moved from the same spot except twice during the twenty-four hours, when they were led to water. No attempt was made to house them or even provide covers for them. The consequence was that before very long the majority began to give symptoms of approaching dissolution. Very soon every disease that horseflesh is heir to began to make its appearance—farcy, glanders, splints, ringbones, coughs, &c.; and, in addition to this, they all dwindled down into long hairy skeletons. Frequently they have not half enough to eat; and, in fact, at the time of my arrival here, the spectacle they presented was at once one of the most pitiable and the most disgraceful I ever witnessed. The poor brutes were all suffering the most intense misery from cold and exposure. They frequently were on short allowance of barley, more frequently still without hay or straw, though there has been an assistant-commissary-general with the depot ever since the departure of the army, and though forage is to be had in abundance at a little distance from Varna, if one has but money and the means of transport, which the English commissariat ought to have. The consequence has been that 500 of these horses at least are dead—some from natural causes, others shot from being incurably diseased; 800 have been handed over to the Turkish Pasha, to be taken care of by him, at the rate of 8d. a day, as, owing to their extreme debility, it was thought us less to send them to the Crimea. Of the feeble remnant which have lately been packed off in the transports, the vast majority are reduced to the last extremity of weakness,

and about half have the mange brought on by extreme filth and the total absence of grooming. What I have now said of the commissariat baggage ponies applies equally to the horses of the officers left behind at the sailing of the expedition for the Crimea. All are hopelessly, irretrievably lost. Let me remind you that all the while that these wretched brutes were dying here from neglect and exposure, the army was suffering dreadfully at Sebastopol, for want of the means of transport and stores. The men ate raw salt beef, and the officers burnt charcoal in their tents for want of wood, though there was wood in abundance, by all accounts, at Balaklava. The roads were bad, it was said—no doubt too bad—for waggons or drays, but there were at Varna 2,000 ponies and pack saddles capable of supplying 50,000 men with wood enough and to spare, across any line of country indicated, road or no road—and several hundred men, whose services were sorely wanted in the trenches, were here taking care of them." The same writer says:—"I cannot for the life of me imagine why stores of firewood have not been collected here. The whole country around is covered with brushwood, easy to cut, easy to be got at, and one hundred men in a single week might furnish materials for roaring fires to the whole army at Sebastopol for at least a month. To have thought of anything of this kind would, however, have been sufficient to throw a head of a department into convulsions."

PREPARATIONS IN RUSSIA.

The *Independence Belge* publishes the following letter, dated Hamburg, 30th ult.:—"We have received to-day accounts from St. Petersburg, stating that since the day hostilities broke out between Russia and Turkey, the Government never displayed so much activity and vigour for the prosecution of the war as at this moment. The military administration at St. Petersburg had just concluded contracts for the supply of immense quantities of materials of war, principally lead, iron, copper, and bronze. The contractors have solemnly engaged to deliver those articles at the end of March, agreeing to pay a heavy fine for each day's delay. Every day long convoys of sledges, drawn each by three horses, may be seen traversing the country, guided by posts placed at long intervals from each other. The winter season is most favourable to that mode of conveyance. The arsenal of Brinnik has supplied of late materials of war to an enormous amount, which were similarly transported on sledges to the head-quarters of the different armies, and several millions of pounds weight of shells, cannon balls, and ball-cartridges have been removed from the military stores of Dubow to Rastoff, in the country of the Don. A number of generals have been promoted and appointed to important posts in the Russian armies. The Emperor has named General Labinsky to the command of two divisions—the 1st and 3rd of the first corps of the army; and General Wrangel to that of the 5th division. The commanders of the principal corps of Russian troops in Poland, who had repaired to Warsaw to concert measures with the General-in-chief De Rudiger, had all left that capital, in virtue of express orders from St. Petersburg, and returned to their respective head-quarters."

A Russian official report gives the following as a list of killed and wounded in the defence of Sebastopol between the 9th of October and the 17th of November:—

Generals	1	3
Superior officers	4	24
Subalterns	14	104
Non-commissioned officers and sailors	789	2,084

The nobility of Nischgorod have presented an address to the Emperor, stating, that, if it should be necessary to make the same sacrifices which they did in 1812, they are quite ready.

A letter from Warsaw, in the *Cologne Gazette*, states that the losses of the Russian army on active service amounted, in 1854, according to official returns, to 107,124 men, of whom 29,204 died naturally, 55,304 were wounded, 6,450 deserted, and 16,166 died from wounds.

Advices from St. Petersburg of the 27th of January state that, with a view to avoid increased taxation, in case of a lengthened war, an Imperial ukase has been issued, ordering the issue of paper money, redeemable three years after the restoration of peace.

Letters from St. Petersburg of the 23rd ult. state that it was expected there that, on the arrival of the Grand Dukes Nicholas and Michael at Sebastopol, Prince Menschikoff would attempt to strike some great blow. The Hereditary Grand Duke had delayed his return to Poland, in order to be present with the Emperor at the consecration of flags for the new levies, for which some very striking religious "effects" are in preparation.

PRUSSIA AND THE GERMAN CONFEDERATION.

It is stated from Berlin that the Government has decreed immediate mobilisation. The fourth and sixth army corps are ordered to occupy the provinces of Saxony and Silesia. The demand of France that a portion of the French army be allowed to pass through Prussia, is categorically rejected.

On the 30th ult. the United Committees of the Germanic Diet jointly proposed that, instead of a general mobilisation of the Federal army, the principal contingents should be made ready for war. This was the Bavarian proposition; it was supported by Prussia, acceded to by Austria, and carried. It is supposed to have been carried *sem con.*, in consequence of the support of Austria, who considered that it established the principle of mobilisation, and the question as to whether the Diet would have accepted that proposition must remain undecided. Prior to this decision, M. Bismarck Schönhausem, the Prussian Minister at the Federal Diet, handed in a

declaration which unveils to a considerable extent the tactics of his Court. The Prussian Court not only incidentally declares that the conferences between the representatives of Austria, France, England, Turkey, and Russia will have no European character unless Prussia be represented there, but gives a pledge "to obtain for the Confederation the same participation which it has reserved for itself." The declaration closes with this remarkable language:

His Prussian Majesty believes that he shall be able to obtain for the Confederation, and for each of its members, a guarantee against all pretensions contrary to the dignity and interests of Germany, even if the hope of an accommodation should not be realised. His Majesty will endeavour, with a view to such an accommodation, to obtain from the belligerent courts, by confidential negotiations, guarantees that Germany shall not be drawn into a war except for the defence of its own interests. But apart from, and independent of, his efforts, his Majesty sees in his own power and that of Germany sufficient guarantees for the maintenance of the dignity, the honour, and the rights of the common country.

THE LEAGUE AGAINST RUSSIA.

The Vienna correspondent of the *Times* says:—"The whole of the Austrian army has received orders to be prepared to march."

We learn from Vienna that the commencement of the conferences with Prince Gortschakoff is no longer spoken of; on the contrary, military preparations are going on with great activity, although the whole army is now ready to take the field. The concentration of troops in Galicia is to be completed by the end of the month. According to the official lists, 200,000 men and 60,000 horses will be collected together at the commencement of February in Galicia and the Bukowine. These troops have been stationed in such a manner that they can be concentrated in a very short time. The reserves of Bohemia and Moravia are posted near the railways, so as to avail themselves of that means of conveyance.

The Lieutenant Field Marshal Count Clam left Vienna on the 30th ult. for Cracow, and General Count Schlick on the next day, for the same place.

Very many Continental journals circulate the statement, that a French army corps, destined to act on the frontiers of Russia, is about to march through Germany. The *Cologne Gazette* says:—"The French troops, which will be concentrated on the northern frontier of Bohemia, are to proceed to that locality through Vienna."

Another account states that the French army will make its way to the frontiers of Russia by way of Piedmont, Lombardy, and Vienna; and that it will march as soon as it shall become evident, in the course of the conferences at Vienna, that Russia is not sincere in her offer to accept the four guarantees as the bases of peace.

The *Corriere Italiano* calculates that Russia will soon have in Poland a force of 150,000 men under Prince Paskiewitch.

The *Corriere Italiano* of Vienna of the 1st says:—"We are assured that Holland has concluded an offensive and defensive alliance with England and France."

The Piedmont treaty has, it would appear, led to some rather warm discussions in the Legislative Chamber of that country, but the opposition to it is not so strong as was at first expected it would be. Many influential men who it was expected would have reprobated the measure, have voted with the Government on the subject. Count Kivrel arrived on the 28th of January at Constantinople, to organise the reception and passage of the Piedmontese army. The *Post Gazette* of Frankfurt, states that an arrangement has been concluded between France and Austria, with respect to the passage of Piedmontese troops through the Austrian territory.

The German papers agree in representing General Wedell's business to be to prepare the way for a separate treaty between Prussia, France, and England. Austria, since the rejection of her proposition in the Diet, has urged upon the Western Powers the desirability of a treaty which would at least draw Prussia closer to the allies, although no one appears to expect that the Cabinet of Berlin is one whit more disposed than it was six months ago to take part in the war.

Odessa, Jan. 31.—Within the last few days all the Austrian vessels in this port have put to sea, notwithstanding that there was ice.

A letter from Florence, in the *Piemonte* of Turin, states that the Tuscan army manifests a great desire to take a part in the war of the Crimea. The Tuscan army musters about 8,000 men.

80,000 is the number to which it is now said the French army for Austria is limited. It will pass through Lombardy, and will prove to the Italians the reality of the alliance of France with Austria. General Schramm is spoken of as likely to command under the Emperor, who, it is still rumoured, will take the field. General Bosquet is also, I hear, spoken of.—*Times Paris Correspondent*.

A treaty of alliance, says the *Independence*, is reported to be on the eve of being signed with Portugal on the same conditions as those made in the recent treaty with Piedmont. The Portuguese legion will, it is said, be 12,000 men. The same journal learns from Switzerland that recruiting is going on very actively there for France and England.

THE BALAKLAVA RAILWAY CORPS.

Every information respecting this expeditionary force is now of great interest. We are glad to find that satisfactory intelligence continues to be received on the subject. The most recent advices received by Captain Andrews are as follows:—Arrived at Malta, Lady A. Lambton, Jan. 18; Prince of Wales, Jan. 21; Wildfire, Jan. 22; Great Northern, Jan. 22. Arrived at Gibraltar, Earl of Durham, Jan. 17; Baron Von Humboldt, Jan. 17; Samuel Laing, Jan. 18. Another steamship, the *Candidate*, left Blackwall on

Saturday, at 7 p.m., with a large cargo of railway material, and a further reinforcement of twenty-five horses and twenty drivers. She also takes out twenty-five joiners, to extend the hospital accommodation at Scutari.

It is stated that, "there is nothing to warrant the gratuitous prediction, that official jealousy at Balaklava will interpose any obstacles to the enterprise. On the contrary, the patriotic and public-spirited contractors by whom the work has been undertaken, have every reason to believe, that all possible facilities will be afforded to their corps, so soon as the officers and men composing it shall reach the Crimea." We hope it may be so: nevertheless, the following extract from a Constantinople letter, in a Paris paper, dated Jan. 22, is not encouraging:—"Unfortunately, the railway meets with unexpected obstacles. Between 600 and 800 Croats were engaged to work at it. Every needful measure was taken—they had their passports *en règle*, and had even received advances of money. But on the day fixed for the departure no one presented himself. It is impossible to conjecture the secret motive of this desertion *en masse*."

The correspondent of the *Morning Chronicle* at the camp, writes on the 13th:—"Many things have transpired within two or three days which have certainly contributed to produce a favourable effect. As one of these, I may mention the commencement of the survey by the employes of S. M. Peto, Esq., for the purpose of laying a tramway between Balaklava and the camp. In about six weeks from the date we shall rejoice to see the nicely balanced car dancing merrily on the rail, while the happy occupants lounge in picturesque attitudes as they are borne to their respective destinations. And, perchance, we shall see some would-be passengers a moment too late, yet shouting after the disappearing train. Such is the excitement about the affair at present, that we have no doubt but that its complete success will herald the fall of Sebastopol. I may mention, *en passant*, that Donald Campbell, Esq., is one of the civil engineers employed."

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENCE.

On the 21st January, Baron Manteuffel issued a verbose Prussian circular to the Cabinets of Paris and London. According to this document, the Western Powers have admitted that the way at first pointed out to Prussia for joining the treaty of the 2nd December is impracticable. The term fixed by the fifth article has expired; that which was eventual has become the actual; and the offensive tendency of the treaty is eclipsed before the expiration of the term, and thus fixing the true bearing of the stipulations Prussia was invited to contract. The Prussian Cabinet, pressing to be admitted not only to the cognizance of some document, but to a knowledge of the motives which presided at its birth, is deeply convinced that all negotiations in reference to his concurrence in eventual complications, will be fruitless, unless preceded by the admission of the Prussian Minister to the Conferences at Vienna. That is "the ground-work for his future attitude."

In a powerful and argumentative circular despatch to the German Courts, dated January 26, M. Drouyn de Lhuys, in exposing the illogical and dangerous course taken by Prussia, implies some statements of fact. One is that the French Government is prepared for the explosion into which the crisis is developing itself. The other statements are, that a Russian army is ready to enter on a campaign in Transylvania; that a mere incident might place the Austrians and Russians at variance on the Lower Danube; that the intercourse between the Cabinets of Vienna and St. Petersburg is of a most delicate nature; and that the acceptance mentioned by Prince Gortschakoff is not such as it was at first supposed to be. "Prussia," he says, "declares that she is full of confidence in the sentiments which animate the cabinet of St. Petersburg, and that therefore it is heedless to take precautions against chimerical apprehensions. But is it not true that a considerable Russian army menaces the Austrian frontier, that an incident threatens to place Austria and Russia in a state of war? Can it be said that the re-establishment of peace is generally thought likely? Is it even certain that the acceptance formally made by Prince Gortschakoff is such as it was first supposed to be?"

A letter from Vienna of the 31st ult. says:—"The very brilliant *soirée* last night at the residence of Count Buol was attended, to the great astonishment of the company, by Prince Gortschakoff, Prince Demidoff, General Count Stakelberg, and all the attachés of the Russian embassy." Another letter says, "The Peace Conferences have not yet commenced, and are not likely to do so for some time to come, as neither of the representatives of the three Powers—England, France, and Turkey—has yet received the necessary instructions or powers from his Government."

SCUTARI HOSPITAL.

There were in Scutari Hospital on the 29th ult., 4,562 non-commissioned officers and privates, and 65 officers. "The numbers dying in the hospital at Scutari (says a letter from Pera), are 50 and 60 per day, besides those that die in the camp. The numbers of sick coming down are from 800 to 1,000 per week. We have about 20,000 men in the Crimea, and between 7,000 and 8,000 sick and convalescent in Scutari; this, subtracted from the numbers sent out, will give the numbers dead. It is not improbable that half the army will perish from the climate during the next ten weeks—say 1,000 per week."

Dr. Lawson, recently severely censured by the Commander-in-Chief for his "apathy and indifference" towards the sick and wounded on board the *Avon* transport, has succeeded Dr. Forest, who goes home in bad health, as the principal medical officer at Scutari Hospital.

The *Times* correspondent, who has been entrusted with the administration of the fund for the sick and wounded in the East, is still greatly dissatisfied with

the state of the hospitals; which he attributes mainly to the system, but in some measure to the "gross ignorance" and incompetency of Dr. Andrew Smith. The extraordinary powers given to the ambassador are a dead letter; the commission has failed to effect anything; Lord William Paulet had "relapsed into the mere *dépôt-commandant*;" and only Miss Nightingale, Dr. McGregor, and the *Times* correspondent, had been able to effect any changes for the better. His remedy for the evils is a dictatorship. Writing on the 18th ult. he says:—

Eleven hundred more sick are on their way here from the Crimea, and the latest news received thence affords no ground for hoping that the amount of disease and mortality in the army is on the decline. On the contrary, there is every reason to fear that both are increasing; for the weather is now dreadfully severe, with heavy snow one day and bitter frost the next. The evidences of this are manifesting themselves in a most marked and painful way. We have already in hospital from 30 to 40 cases of mortified feet from exposure, and the spectacle which men thus afflicted present is far more distressing than the severest wounds. It is remarkable how on cold and stormy nights the deaths here run up; and another singular feature is the extent to which, on such nights, the dysenteric patients rave. During the day little of this is heard, but when all is silent, and sleep has settled down upon the occupants of each ward and corridor, then rise at intervals upon the ear sounds which go straight to the heart of the listener. Now, it is the wasted skeleton of a man who fancies himself in the trenches, or on the blood-stained ridges of the Inkermann valley, contending for dear life, and the honour of his country. That ceases, and through the stillness comes the heavy moaning of another sufferer, at grips with death. By and by a patient in deep consumption has a fit of coughing; and so through the dreary hours the ear is arrested by expressions of suffering.

The writer reports the steady progress of Miss Nightingale. The return of Dr. Menzies, the head of the General Hospital, to England, who has passively resisted the introduction of female nurses, the continued deficiencies of the purveying and the increasing emergencies of the hospital service, have now enabled her safely to extend her sphere of usefulness, and in consequence, all the sisters and nurses will shortly be at work. "Eight of them proceed on Saturday to Balaklava, where I have no doubt they will do an incalculable amount of good. Another party are to be settled at Kululee. Permanent quarters have been found for those employed at the General Hospital under Miss Emily Anderson; and the Sultan's Kiosk and the cavalry stables are each to be provided with a few." On the 15th, 16th, and 17th, the deaths were 122.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

An artillery camp of 4,000 men is to be formed at Scutari.

The Leeds subscriptions to the Patriotic Fund now amount to £12,300.

Count Esterhazy, the Austrian Ambassador at Berlin, has returned to Vienna.

It appears from further experiments that the Lancaster gun is found effective at 1,000 yards range, and upwards, when the men become acquainted with it.

The Kars army is in the usual state. By the last accounts the Russians were making large levies of troops on the frontier.

Brigadier-General James Craufurd has been appointed Military Commissioner at Vienna, in the room of the late General Du Plat.

The Count de Renneville has been appointed by the Emperor of Austria on a military mission to the Emperor of the French.

Advices from Malta of the 1st. of February announce the departure of Sir George Brown for the Crimea.

The 13th, 54th, 66th, and 92nd Regiments, now in Gibraltar, are ordered to the Crimea. They will be replaced by Militia regiments.

Of the seven bureaux of the Chamber of Deputies at Turin, only one, the seventh, has declared itself against the treaty with the Western Powers.

The *Moniteur* states that General de Wedell was received on Sunday at the Tuileries, when he presented letters from the King of Prussia to the Emperor.

The Government having resolved to be the manufacturers of their own small arms, an extensive factory is now in progress of erection at Enfield Lock, Middlesex.

It is stated that the lieutenant governorship of Chelsea Hospital, vacant by the death of General Sir A. P. Barnard, was offered to General Sir De Lacy Evans, but was declined.

The members of the United Service Club, it is said, intend to invite Lord Cardigan to become an honorary member, in consequence of his distinguished gallantry at Balaklava on the 25th of October last.

News has been received which brings down our knowledge of Schamyl's existence and continued command up to the time of the late foray in Georgia, of which he was, no doubt, at the head.

A personage belonging to one of the highest families in Portugal, who desires to preserve a strict incognito, has placed 10,000 bottles of port wine at the disposal of the French Government for the army in the Crimea.

The Glasgow subscriptions to the Patriotic Fund were last week announced to amount to £43,659, of which sum £42,367 was in bank. Of the grand total nearly £11,000 has been contributed by the foremen and operatives of the public works within the city.

The Mauritius, screw transport, arrived at Spithcad on Friday afternoon, from the Crimea. She has brought over the sick and wounded troops and women and children to disembark here. She has 112 soldiers, and 200 women and children.

Mr. Stevens, British Vice-Consul at Trebizond, has obtained from the Turkish Government the proclamation of the firman which abolishes the slave traffic. Two Circassian slave dealers have been arrested and

the slaves detained. The British frigate, the *Tribune*, supported the demand of the Consul.

The recruiting for the line is actively going on in the various districts of South Wales. At Swansea, Cardiff, Carmarthen, &c., the recruiting sergeants have been very active, and have succeeded in securing a large number of young men.

A library, consisting of nearly 300 volumes of books, has been fitted up on board the hospital ship *Severn*, which is about to proceed to the Black Sea. This library is intended for the invalids on the passage between Balaklava and Soutari.

The Foreign Legion will assemble for drill, &c., at Heligoland, and Lieutenant Lempriere, with a detachment of Royal Sappers and Miners, was to leave Woolwich for Heligoland this week, to erect huts for the accommodation of 20,000 men to be used in March.

Portsmouth again resounds with the din and bustle of preparation for the approaching naval campaign in the Baltic, and "all hands" are busily employed from morning until night, and long after the usual "routine" hours of labour, in several of the Government departments.

The *Swiss* of Bern is assured that the English Government offered the grade of lieutenant-general of a foreign legion to Federal Colonel Bontems; that he accepted it, but that the Federal Council of the nation having withheld its approval he has renounced the engagement.

It appears that, under a supplementary convention to the treaty with Sardinia, England pledges herself to lend to that country £1,000,000 during the current year, and a further £1,000,000 next year at 3 per cent. interest, and 1 per cent. for a sinking fund; £500,000 is to be paid as soon as the sanction of Parliament can be obtained.

The diseases which pursue our army are aggravated by a peculiar condition of mind which the medical men have remarked very frequently in their patients—an extreme listlessness and indifference to life—a languor which induces the convalescent to regard "rest" as the greatest happiness, and deprives them of any inclination to make the least effort, or even to take food and nourishment.

Lord Raglan's staff is made up of nephews. "Lord Raglan has Lieutenant-Colonel Somerset, the son of his brother Lord Charles; he has the Honourable Lieutenant Calthorpe, Lord Raglan's niece having married Lord Calthorpe; he has Captain Kingscote, Lord Raglan's niece having married Mr. Kingscote. Of the other two, one is Lord Burghersh, son of Lord Westmoreland, and consequently nephew of Lady Raglan; and the other is the Honourable Lieutenant Curzon, son of Lord Howe."

Two thousand police officers are to be sent out to the Crimea to form a transport corps. The body is to consist of a quartermaster, sergeants or superintendents, drivers and corporals. There are to be 1,400 drivers, at a pay each of 3s. per day, and 2s. 6d. each for the lower class, clothing and rations to be given in addition. Pensions are to be allowed to the men who may be engaged in the event of their receiving wounds whilst on duty in the East. It is proposed to raise 800 second-class drivers, who are to be offered by about 100 men of the different grades of non-commissioned officers.

From the number of soldiers embarked at Marseilles for the East during the last three months, it is calculated that the French force before Sebastopol must amount to 100,000 men. Generals Pelissier, Rivet, and Desvilliers sailed on Wednesday. General Pelissier landed there from Oran on the preceding Monday. He is of the middle size, with broad shoulders, a rather careworn countenance, and appears to be about 60 years of age. He is remarkably neat in his dress, and expects his officers to imitate his example. He has passed the greater portion of his life in Algeria, and has earned there a reputation of extraordinary energy. He is said to look like a man who will either bring back a Marshal's baton from the Crimea, or find a soldier's grave there.

Postscript.

THE MINISTERIAL INTERREGNUM.

The country is yet without a Government. As to the cause of Lord Palmerston's want of success there are various reports. According to the *Morning Chronicle* his lordship finds his opinions "as to the proper objects of the war," at variance with "leading statesmen, whose co-operation is of paramount importance." "It is therefore not at all improbable that this Ministry may not be such as he is anxious to make it; and it will be for the people to decide whether they will support him in his spirited and patriotic attempt to carry out their wishes, or whether they will fall back upon councillors who, equally zealous for the national honour, are not disposed to risk the same sacrifices of blood and treasure for objects which may eventually prove unattainable."

The *Daily News*, specially hostile to the Peelites, as the now open foe of Lord John Russell, says:—

On the present occasion it is notorious that the Peelite omnibus "stops the way." Mr. Gladstone will not consent to join any Cabinet unless he is allowed to bring Mr. Sidney Herbert along with him; and Mr. Sidney Herbert will not consent to accompany Mr. Gladstone unless the Duke of Newcastle is to be of the company; and the Duke of Newcastle will not move without the Earl of Aberdeen. The Peelites hang together like a rope of onions.

The Peelites are willing to renew the Coalition upon one condition—that they are to have it in their power to thwart the efforts of their more earnest and resolute col-

leagues, and perpetuate the shilly-shally manner in which the war has been hitherto conducted, with so much of suffering to our brave soldiers, with so much of domestic bereavement to our English firebrands, with so much of degradation to the national character.

It will be, therefore, with a cold shudder that the people of England will read last night's declaration of Lord Aberdeen, that he entertains a "confident hope, that before the next meeting of the House the present state of uncertainty and embarrassment will have been brought to a happy termination."

In another article the Liberal journal says:—"We hear it said that one of the conditions upon which the friends of the Duke of Newcastle have agreed to retain their posts under Lord Palmerston is, that the Committee of Inquiry into the state of the army before Sebastopol shall not be even named." And again:—"Five seats in the Cabinet are still required, though it is necessary, in order to fill them, that secondary luminaries, like Mr. Cardwell and Lord Cairnes, be raised to the dignity in question."

The following (says the *Daily News*) are the reports most generally credited yesterday evening in the political circles:—

Lord Aberdeen retains his seat in the Cabinet, but without office.

Sir James Graham retires, and will be succeeded by Sir Francis Baring or Lord Seymour.

The Ministry of War has been pressed a second time on Lord Palmerston; should he persist in declining, it will be offered, it is said, to Mr. V. Smith, by whom no objection, it is understood, will be made to its acceptance.

Lord Cairnes and Mr. Cardwell are to have seats in the Cabinet, retaining their present offices.

Sir John Young is named High Commissioner of the Ionian Islands.

The late Chancellor of the Exchequer is in favour of retaining office, but Mr. Gladstone is inclined to retire from the Ministry.

The opinions of the *Times* are embodied in our "Summary."

Yesterday about one o'clock the Queen and Prince Albert arrived at Windsor Castle. Shortly afterwards her Majesty gave audience to Viscount Palmerston. Later in the afternoon the noble Viscount had a second audience of the Queen.

LATEST FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

BRUSSELS, Feb. 5.—M. Ueddom, who is again charged with a special mission to the Court of St. James's, has met General Wedel, but has not been able to proceed to London on account of indisposition.

On Monday, General Count Von Crenneville, charged with a military mission to the Court of the Tuilleries by the Cabinet of Vienna, was presented to the Emperor of the French by Baron Bubner, the Austrian Ambassador. The object of General Count Crenneville's mission to Paris has been absurdly represented as including the discussion of a plan of sending an Austrian army to the Crimea.

The Sardinian Minister at Rome has been recalled. The Hanoverian army is being placed upon a war footing.

The *Univers* announces the conversion to the Roman Catholic faith of the Rev. Edmund Foulkes, of the University of Oxford, where he was nominated Margaret professor of theology at Jesus College in 1853.

YESTERDAY'S PARLIAMENT.

The House of Lords yesterday held a brief sitting, during which some bills were respectively advanced a stage. Upon an intimation from Lord Aberdeen that the arrangements for the new Ministry were still unfinished, but that he confidently hoped they would be completed by their next meeting, their Lordships adjourned to Thursday.

In the House of Commons, replying to a question from Mr. BENTINCK, Mr. SIDNEY HERBERT stated that the appointment of Dr. Lawson as superintendent of the Scutari hospital was only a provisional measure, adopted during the temporary absence of Dr. Cumming, who had since returned and resumed his functions as head of that establishment.

Sir G. GRAY, referring to a communication from Lord Palmerston, announced that the Home Secretary was still engaged in carrying out the commission he had received from her Majesty for the formation of a new Cabinet. Pending the accomplishment of that object he proposed that all public business should be adjourned, consenting at the same time that the House should sit to-day (Wednesday), for the furtherance of some measures involving no serious discussion.

Mr. BENTINCK remarked that the country had been left without a Government during an entire week, at a crisis when every hour was fraught with suffering to the army in the Crimea, and peril to the cause in which it was engaged. Recapitulating the various abortive attempts which rumour affirmed to have been made for the construction of a new Ministry, in the course of which he said, amid roars of laughter, that, in reference to the negotiation with Lord Derby, he hoped Lord Palmerston would be able to give an explanation of conduct which, as reported, seemed somewhat open to the charge of vacillation. The hon. member commented upon the discreditable position of public men and political parties that was thus exhibited, and called upon the House to give some expression of opinion on the subject, so as, if possible, to terminate the existing paralysis of administration.

After a remonstrance from Sir C. WOOD, on the inconvenient time selected by the hon. member for opening such a discussion,

Mr. SPOTTISWOODE denounced the apathy of the House in allowing the members of an incapable and indicted Cabinet to resume the seals of office, with little change beyond a redistribution of the departments. Were they now to be told that the head of an administration who had drawn them into a war, and been the cause

of all their calamities, was to come back again to office in such a position as would leave him all his power? Such a course he declared was trifling with the dignity of the Legislature and the interest of the country.

Mr. LABOUCHERE appealed to the House to stop a discussion that might seriously embarrass arrangements out of doors, and could by no possibility lead to any useful result.

Mr. MURPHY thought the House was in a very humiliating position. (Hear, hear.) What were they doing but waiting for a Government to be formed?

The country believed that they were waiting till some two or three great families had adjusted their affairs. The country would soon want to know whether there were not, outside this narrow circle, men of energy and ability sufficient to form a government. They would soon find that such were the feelings of the people of England at that moment. The state of affairs was injurious and disgraceful to the country; if it continued so much longer, it would not only be disgraceful but dangerous.

Mr. MALINS also commented upon the disgrace and danger attending the delay in forming a Ministry. The people, he said, would not much longer allow the administration of affairs to depend upon the caprice of certain aristocratic cliques, but would take matters into their own hands. If by Thursday the new Government was not organised, he trusted that the House would vote an address to the Crown on the subject.

Mr. S. WORTLEY deprecated the continuance of the debate. There was hardly any one who did not wish Lord Palmerston to succeed, (hear, hear)—but the course which some hon. members were taking was the very one to defeat the end in view. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. ROEBUCK, having been mentioned, referred to his proposed committee.

I think, I owe it to the House to say a few words on this point, and to explain why I have not moved the nomination of the committee. I naturally wished that this committee should obtain the confidence of the country, and, for that purpose, I desired that the leading members of this House should be upon it. (Hear, hear.) But while the country is without a Government, we do not know who may form the next Ministry, and hence I have been unable to proceed; for some of those upon whom I might fix may form a portion of the next Administration. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. ROEBUCK expressed his hope that Lord Palmerston would persevere in constructing an Administration.

Now, sir, if I know anything of this House, or of the country, sure am I that that noble lord should feel no difficulty about the matter. (Cheers.) The country has declared itself, and upon the country he may rely. (Cheers.) If anybody throws any difficulty in his way, it is in his hands to put aside that difficulty. Let him say to such obstructors, "Stand aside, I will get into office those who will, through me, obtain the confidence of the country, and will do for the country that which it demands, careless alike of party and of personal considerations." (Cheers.) If the noble lord will set upon these principles, sure am I that he will obtain the confidence of the people of this country, and, obtaining that confidence, there is none other that he need wish or care to attain. (Cheers.)

The subject then dropped, and the House, in which neither Lord Palmerston, Lord John Russell, nor Mr. Gladstone, had made their appearance, adjourned at a quarter past five o'clock.

SIR CHARLES NAPIER AND LORD CARDIGAN AT THE MANSION HOUSE.

Sir C. Napier and Lord Cardigan were yesterday present at the Lord Mayor's annual dinner to the Aldermen of the City of London. The latter appeared in his tattered uniform worn at the battle of Balaklava. Both were, of course, very warmly received, and both made notable speeches.

Sir C. Napier's address was one of uniform complacency. He stated that he returned from the Baltic after having hardly performed any service, having been consumed by Government, and removed from his command. (Cries of "No, no.") He said he had endeavoured to draw the Russian fleet out of harbour but had failed. Any attack upon Cronstadt was totally impracticable. There was not sufficient water for the ships, and the batteries were of such strength that the fleet must have been destroyed. A military force was not, he said, needed for the destruction of Bomarsund. He complained bitterly of the treatment of the Admiralty, especially of Sir J. Graham. When urged to do something more, a council of admirals and generals had decided that nothing more could be done that season—yet Government would not take that decision. If the fleet had then gone up the Gulf of Finland, he had no hesitation in saying it would have been totally lost. Government joined the clamour against him. He sent home to the Admiralty, two opinions—one, of the appliances necessary to take Swaborg, the other certain to issue in destruction.

What did the Admiralty do? Now, I mention this particularly and plainly, in order that there may be no mistake whatever, because, if the Government have the least spirit about them, they will immediately discharge me and turn me out of the service. (Hear, hear.) The Admiralty perverted my language. Not only did they do that, but they wrote me the most goading letters that they could possibly send. They asked me why I did not take Swaborg, and do this, that, and the other. I state it to the public, and I wish them to know that had I followed the advice of Sir James Graham, I should most inevitably have left the fleet behind me in the Baltic.

The Earl of CARDIGAN gave an interesting account of the fatal cavalry charge at Balaklava.

CORN-EXCHANGE, MARK-LANE, Wednesday, Feb. 7, 1855.

The foreign supply of Wheat and Oats, so long talked of being now all in, the Trade is to-day in a more quiet, and every article is held at fully Monday's rates.

Arrivals this week.—Wheat, English, 320 qrs.; Foreign, 2,510 qrs. Oats, English, 20 qrs.; Foreign, 120 qrs. Flour, English, 550 sacks; Foreign, 120 sacks.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice can be taken of anonymous communications. Whatever is intended for insertion must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer; not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of his good faith. We cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

All notices of "Births, Marriages, and Deaths," must be duly authenticated, otherwise they cannot be inserted.

"E. L." should have sent his name. From the tenor of his letter we infer that he cannot be a constant reader, or he would see our aim is to give impartial intelligence, and independent criticism.

"A. M. L." We have not space to continue the discussion of the question at the present time, nor are we likely to entertain his proposition.

"Islington." Mr. Robert Chambers has just republished, from *Chambers' Journal*, memoranda made in his recent American tour. This book will probably answer his purpose.

"David Wallace." Dr. Epps' edition of "Pulte's Homoeopathy," and "Laurie's Domestic Homoeopathy,"—both of which have frequently been advertised in this paper.

The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1855.

SUMMARY.

THE lapse of another week leaves us still without a Government. On the formal resignation of Lord Aberdeen, the Earl of Derby was sent for by the Queen as being the leader of the largest section of the majority that overturned the late Administration. It seems that by the advice of Mr. Disraeli, the noble lord, unable to confide exclusively in his own immediate friends, opened negotiations with Lord Palmerston, which ended in total failure. Lord John Russell was then sent for; but, besides the Peelites, some of his late Whig colleagues refused to serve with him under existing circumstances. The ex-President of the Council, therefore, soon abandoned the task, and Lord Palmerston was on Saturday afternoon summoned to supply his place. Since then the noble Viscount has been assiduously engaged in endeavouring to reconcile the conflicting claims of the half dozen families that consider themselves entitled to a monopoly of office. But he has not yet succeeded in overcoming all the difficulties that encumber his path, although he has made sufficient progress to warrant the expectation of ultimate success. Lord Palmerston, it is supposed, considers it his mission to form a Ministry which will prosecute the war with vigour. In seeking the co-operation of many of the Peelite section of the late Government, he has found that their opinions as to the conduct and objects of the war differ from his own. They are said to stipulate for the adoption of the war policy of the late administration, for the shelving of Mr. Roebuck's committee, and for the retention of Lord Aberdeen in office as President of the Council. It is manifest that these conditions are, in the present state of public affairs, to say the least, unreasonable. Yet to this cause is attributed the injurious delay which has attended the formation of the Government.

But be this as it may, Lord Palmerston seems to have secured the leading members of his new administration. It is announced by the *Times* that Mr. Gladstone, Sir James Graham, and Mr. Sidney Herbert retain office; the latter gentleman succeeding the new Premier as Home Secretary. Sir G. Grey, though his health is impaired, consents to remain at the head of the Colonial Office, as a mark of his cordial desire to support Lord Palmerston. The great difficulty of the new Premier is the War Department. This difficult and onerous office was, it is said, offered to Earl Grey, with the opportunity of proposing his trenchant reforms in our war administration; but the noble earl declined the appointment, assigning his views on the policy of the present war as a disqualification. The vacant post was then offered to Lord Panmure, Secretary at War under the last Whig Government, but it is doubtful whether his health will enable him to accept its arduous duties. Another name mentioned in connection with the vacant Secretaryship is that of Mr. Vernon Smith! The appointment of Mr. Layard as Under-Secretary of State for the War Department will enable that gentleman to reduce his criticisms to practice; and may, perhaps, be taken as an

earnest of the desire of the new Premier seriously to grapple with our disorganized war administration. Lord Palmerston comes into office with a large measure of public favour and an almost unprecedented opportunity of serving the country. It is to be hoped that he will take the advice of Mr. Roebuck last night, and look to the people rather than to cliques and partisans for support to his Government.

The Duke of Newcastle's manly defence of his conduct of the War Department on Thursday, has been the only business of consequence to occupy the House of Lords. It was preceded by the formal announcement by the Earl of Aberdeen of the resignation of himself and colleagues. In the course of his speech the noble earl took the opportunity of drawing a favourable picture of the prospects of the war, of the results of his Administration, and especially of the promising position of Austria in relation to the Western Powers. Not only did the Duke of Newcastle complete the case of condemnation against Lord John Russell, but showed that himself had been a calumniated man. While his colleagues were enjoying the recess, he was night and day discharging his laborious duties at the War Office. The noble duke has fallen a victim to a system he was unable of himself to grapple with, and may, at some future time, reap the reward of his unwearied devotion to the public service. At present he has acted wisely in declining to take office.

For ten days the duties of the Government, at a critical juncture of the nation's history, have been practically suspended. Yet the present is the time when preparations are needed for the ensuing campaign. It is supposed that active operations may be commenced in the Crimea towards the end of next month, before which time the Czar, who has had no ministerial crisis to contend with, will no doubt be fully prepared to take the field. The accounts from the camp are on the whole, better, although scarcely more than 12,000 bayonets were available at the latest dates, and the British army was wasting away at the rate of 1,000 a-week. The French also suffer severely, though not to the same extent, from the severity of the climate. By this time the Balaklava railway corps has probably arrived, and it was expected that the road from the port to the camp would be constructed in six weeks. Meanwhile, the siege of Sebastopol is practically abandoned, and it is generally believed that a regular campaign in the field must precede the effectual investment of the great fortress.

Diplomacy, however, continues active. The German Confederation have adopted a medium course between the propositions of its two leading members. Still the position of Prussia is becoming more and more embarrassing, and special missions have again been sent to Paris and London, to arrange, it is said, a separate treaty with the Western Powers, by which the Berlin Cabinet will once more become a member of the Alliance. With the rumours of the possibility of a French army marching to the defence of the Austrian frontier and the adhesion of Portugal to the Western Alliance, we have the positive statements of the French Minister of Foreign Affairs, in his last despatch to the Prussian Government, that Transylvania is threatened by a great Russian army, that the relations of the Czar with the Austrian Emperor are of the most delicate nature, and that the propositions of Prince Gortschakoff for peace are very intangible and not likely to lead to any definite issue.

The opportunity not yet afforded by Parliament to the impugned commanders, of impugning in their turn the Home Government, has been found by Sir Charles Napier in a Mansion House dinner, given last night to himself and the Earl of Cardigan. The long-imprisoned sea-lion has fairly turned upon and torn his official tormentors. The Admiralty sent him into unknown waters,—he says,—without pilots and without charts; nevertheless, he took his giant vessels up to the walls of Cronstadt without loss. Instructed above all things to avoid the charge of indiscretion by exposing his ships to the chances of collision with stone walls, he desisted only from attempts which could not be made, in his judgment, without certainty of destruction—yet was incessantly urged from home "to do something," and twice ordered to submit to a council of officers the decision in which he was fully supported by his naval and military coadjutors. He offered to take Bomarsund without an army,—and, that done, submitted plans for the capture of Sweaborg. Instead of support, he received "the most insulting and degrading letters ever addressed to any officer." After prolonging his stay in the Gulf of Finland to the extreme of safety, he returned home only to be deprived of his command. To this statement the gallant admiral challenges contradiction—and demands either his own expulsion from the service, or the expulsion of Sir James Graham from the Admiralty. In the present exasperation of the public mind, it is not possible that the gauntlet thus cast down should lie unheeded,—even if there

were no Opposition to find sport and profit in pricking on the antagonists.

Meanwhile, the philosophers of the French press—confined to the discussion of abstractions by the impossibility of being practical without peril to their journalistic existence—find themes of admiring discourse in the spectacles lately presented by the English Parliament. The conflicts of the tribune and the pageants of the Pantheon are recalled by the destruction of a Ministry and the reception of a General; and the recollection excites a sigh that is also an aspiration. At this, the pen of Granier de Cassagnac—Napoleon's St. Arnaud of the press—is set in motion; and it has but to depict the anarchy in our camp and the interregnum in our Government to answer the seditious praises of Constitutionalism. Certainly a military despot could desire no better commendation to his subjects than the cordial alliance of a free people, helpless in the hands of an aristocracy ridiculously unable to govern.

The publication of that always useful periodical—the Registrar-General's Quarterly Returns of Births, Marriages, and Deaths—has its chief interest just now in the light it throws on the matter of paramount concern. The Registrar—himself a soldier as well as a statistician—furnishes in the last return averages of mortality among a given number of men in town and country of the military age, and compares them with the averages of sickness and death during the Peninsular war. The result goes to show that the ravages of disease in the Crimean army are absolutely without parallel in the records of English campaigning. That more than a fourth of an army should be in the hospital at one time,—we are led to conclude,—is not to be excused "in the present state of engineering and medical science."

The Church continues to trouble the State wherever the two are in close contiguity. Our English Convocation, improving its license to sit for despatch of business, is preparing for the secular legislature a bone of contention in the shape of a revised prayer-book. The Sardinian Minister to Rome has been recalled, and pains are taken to exclude from the kingdom the bull which nevertheless will dominate its policy. And the new Spanish financier, Madoz, proposing to alienate clerical property held in mortmain, has roused the bishops to extra-episcopal opposition; one of them rekindling his extinguished Carlist beacon, and hiding himself from the officials sent to effect his rustication.

NOTES FROM THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

FIDDLE faddle is the truest and shortest description we can give of the proceedings of Parliament throughout the week. The oligarchy trifles with the people. The spirit of England seems to have been toned down to the aristocratic level—and, in the political world, the Anglo-Saxon mind has become insane, fit only to hide its want of manliness "in smiles and affability."

The Cabinet kaleidoscope has had two or three turns since our last, but, as yet, has turned up no approved pattern. The same little bits of stained glass—the porcelain of human nature—have been shaken into different figures, but they won't do. Our only statesmen are being used up rapidly—but it is questionable whether we are much nearer to settled Government. Conventionalism rules the House, as rigorously as the army. Young men, new men, men of the people, are as sorely at a discount in St. Stephen's, as in the Crimea. Routine overrides us all. A precious week has been wasted in settling the respective claims to office of the dozen ruling families under whom we boast of freedom and independence, and, meanwhile, incompetence is ruining not our army only, but our national reputation and our European position. When will this infamous state of affairs be put an end to?

On Wednesday last, the House did not sit at all. On Thursday they met only to be told what they well knew, that the Aberdeen Ministry had resigned and held office only until the appointment of their successors. On Friday and on Monday, no progress was reported, save, indeed, such as is gained by the process of exhaustion. Our whole business—if business it can be called—has been personal—the giving of thanks, and the hearing of explanations. To these empty frivolities we must confine ourselves—for, alas! we have nothing better to report.

The scene in the House on Friday was impressive as a show—would that we could contemplate it in a higher light! Lieutenant General Sir De Lacy Evans has proved himself a good soldier: but even he—and he had the nobleness of spirit to admit it—has had his laurel crown woven for him by the gallantry of the men placed under his command. It had been announced by Lord Palmerston the evening before that the General would take his seat on the morrow, and that the Speaker would then tender to him the thanks of the House. Accordingly, there was a very full gathering—in theatrical phrase, a bumper. A seat had been previously ticketed by Sir De

Lacy Evans, to which he is now entitled for the rest of his Parliamentary life. As the clock advanced towards half-past four, the hum of conversation which was loud and general suddenly ceased. The old soldier, in full regimentals and wearing all his insignia upon him, made his appearance. Both sides of the House rose and uncovered, and as he walked up the floor towards his seat, greeted him with ringing acclamations. He was moved, as who would not be under similar circumstances? Then there was a silence, broken only by the magnificent voice of the Speaker, who, still seated, addressed General Evans by name, read the resolution of the Commons, and then uttered those majestic sentences in which he fitly embodied a nation's gratitude. Sir De Lacy Evans, with head bowed down, listened standing. As soon as the Speaker had done he attempted to respond. But the general is no orator, nor did he appear to appreciate the moral grandeur of the occasion. He wandered away from his proper subject into a rather querulous criticism of Lord John Russell's speech on proposing the vote of thanks, and addressed himself, not to the representatives of his country, but to two sets of party politicians. He is an honest man, however, and he meant honestly—but he mistook the occasion, and thereby considerably baulked the sympathies of the House.

On Monday evening we had a scene of another kind. On the motion for the adjournment of the House, Lord John Russell rose to make an explanation in reply to the Duke of Newcastle's speech delivered on Thursday evening in the House of Lords. Lord John never seems much abashed, and he went over his explanatory observations in a tone which smacked but little of self-dissatisfaction. He was listened to with respect, but he elicited scarcely any cheers. On his own followers his desertion of his post has produced a painful impression—and by all others it is spoken of with contemptuous indignation. Mr. Gladstone followed him—complimented him—and still further exposed him.

Last night again passed over without any official announcements. The House is getting restive at the slow progress of affairs. A conversation on the humiliating spectacle presented by the condition of this country to the rest of Europe, broke out in spite of official efforts to restrain it. Mr. Muntz especially uttered some wholesome and useful observations, as did also Mr. Bentinck, who had the courage to break the ice of conventionalism, for which he deserves thanks. Of course, Mr. Labouchere, as an ex-placeman, was shocked at this want of decorum, and Sir Charles Wood, mistaking the purport of Mr. Bentinck's speech, attributed to him the blunder of seeking explanations when there was nobody present to explain. But officialism has recently lost a good deal of its gilt—and if a Government be not speedily constituted, the Commons hint at taking matters into their own hands.

ROUTINE AT HOME.

It is not enough that one of the finest armies England ever had has been all but destroyed by routine—it is not enough that for two or three months, red-tape officials have been unable to manage affairs less extensive and far less difficult than are satisfactorily conducted by many a City commercial firm—it is not enough that our soldiers are dirty, half-naked, insufficiently fed, and entirely unhouse, through the imbecility of aristocratic tadpoles—it is not enough that our commissariat blunders and our hospital neglects should be the laughter and horror of Europe—our precious system is now breaking down at home, and whilst we adhere to it, it would seem as impossible to form a vigorous Government as to make a road from Balaklava to the camp.

On Monday se'night the House of Commons, by an immense majority, testified their dissatisfaction with the then existing Government. Eight days have since elapsed, and up to last evening no announcement was made of progress in the formation of a new Administration. The difficulties are said to have been unprecedented. What will they be after two or three more turns of the wheel? When the country shall enjoy the privilege of numbering among its people some seven or eight instead of three or four ex-premiers, how will it be possible to carry on constitutional government at all? Her Majesty's practical choice of advisers is limited to about a dozen noble families. Nearly half of these have, at one time or other, held the reins of political power. What is to be done when the other half have had their turns? How can the conflicting claims of our oligarchs be adjusted? Their self-complacent exclusiveness is even now the cause of all our so-called difficulties? What will it grow to after awhile? To what extent will the people allow themselves to be imposed on by the etiquette of officialism?

We blame the weakness of a Cabinet which has hesitated to recall Lord Raglan, long after his incapacity has been proved by the miserable con-

dition of his troops. We say that where the lives of 50,000 men are concerned, it is criminal to heed the nice punctilios of the drawing-room. But are we not doing precisely that for which we blamed the late Administration? Why are we without a Government at this moment? Why have we not a reserve of capable rulers? Why are we obliged to flee in every crisis to the most "antiquated imbecilities" that England can produce? Why is it that every change of Government is but the shuffling of a few court cards, in which the knave of hearts, or the knave of clubs, or the knave of diamonds, is sure to be uppermost? Why, but because we, as a people, are steeped to the core in funkism, and cannot believe any man capable of governing us who has not upon him the conventional stamp of nobility. And we, who in politics are always waiting for my Lord This, or his grace the Duke of That, and beseech them for goodness' sake to manage our public affairs, although we have crowds of infinitely more capable men amongst ourselves, we have rushed into a tremendous war to teach the peoples of the continent the priceless value of liberty and civilisation! Why, the very Croats will soon grin at our insular and opinionative delusions!

It is a pity that the Government of the people of England cannot be carried on by contract. Every one is convinced that it would be administered much more ably. Our want at home is precisely the same as the want of the army in the Crimea—"HEAD, HEAD, HEAD." Our best interests are committed, by a sort of constitutional routine, which, in smooth times, everybody praises, into the hands of venerable muffs or coronetted charlatans, as if by an ordination of Providence. In secure enjoyment of their monopoly of political power, they hand us over, backwards and forwards, to each other, with a wonderful show of disinterested wisdom, and we puff them, and belaud them, and humble ourselves before them, as though they were the Heaven-appointed arbiters of our national destiny. If her Majesty were to advertise for an Executive, she could hardly do worse—she would probably do a great deal better.

For after all, can it be pretended that Great Britain cannot furnish the talent capable of conducting the business of the country with more credit than we have been accustomed to of late? Or is it not that our aristocratic and exclusive system excludes the highest abilities from the administration of public affairs? In what other department is there such an absolute dearth of competency? What other business is so shamefully and systematically mismanaged? Loud complaints have been uttered, sometimes not unjustly, against railway companies—but if any set of railway directors had blundered as our Government has done, or to a twentieth part of the extent, would any body of proprietors be found to put up with their incapacity, much more to renew the trust after they had been once dismissed?

We have no faith, then, in the last shuffle of the cards. We feel confident that whilst this country acquiesces in Government by patronage, the same vices will continue to characterise our whole official system. Lord Palmerston will find that system too strong for him, just as did the Duke of Newcastle. The men who quietly allowed routine to destroy an army, will be little likely to grapple with it when again returned to power. The sympathies of most of them are with their order—and slavish deference to their order has been the chief cause of our present humiliation. The root of the mischief is in the state of our representation. We shall never be much improved until British common sense passes for more than oligarchical cant—and that will never be until the people have control in their own House.

RESPONSIBILITY BROUGHT HOME.

THE Duke of Newcastle has replied to Lord John Russell's "explanation" of the act by which he at once deserted and impeached his colleagues—Lord John has made a rejoinder to the duke's reply—and Mr. Gladstone has "corrected" Lord John's rejoinder. Let us see in what attitude must now be depicted that fugitive champion of the Cabinet whom we last week represented as throwing away his shield, on the eve of battle, either in panic or premeditated treachery.

Except on one point, the duke did not contradict, but only supplemented, Lord John's statement. The duke's appointment to the War Ministry, Lord John represented as a concession, on the part of the Cabinet, to the duke's own wishes—"commendable ambition" was his phrase—and an acknowledgment of the "considerable" celerity he had shown in fitting out the Crimean expedition. The duke denies that he had any ambition in the matter—that he had ever expressed any preference for one office over the other. On the contrary,—he says,—I put myself entirely in the hands of my colleagues, offering to retain "either office or neither, as might be deemed best for the public service." Lord John does not demur to this correction of his statement

—but Mr. Gladstone confirms it, and claims the duke's appointment as the act of the entire Cabinet. The difference should be noted, as showing the animus of Lord John's subsequent deportment.

The duke produces Lord John's own testimony to his efficiency up to the beginning of October. "You have done all that could be done,"—writes the patronising Lord President from his maritime retreat to the colleague drudging in Whitehall. The writer informs us that he added, "You are obstructed by the departments," or words to that effect;—but that he considered the duke strong enough to override the departments, is evinced by the expression of his sanguine expectation of the duke's success. It was only a month or six weeks later that the suggestion of the duke's replacement by Lord Palmerston, and the consolidation of the divided Administration, was made by the same noble letter-writer. Here again the pliancy of the duke was exhibited. Do with me as you will,—he is acknowledged to have said to the Premier. That he added, "Give Lord John no pretext for resignation," is charged against him as a "misplaced sneer"—but Lord John, by his own confession, had long before given himself airs with the Cabinet, whose collected strength had not been placed at his service at every demand, or had failed to save him from Parliamentary defeat. Again the Cabinet decided that the duke's services as War Minister were the best that could be had,—and again Lord John acquiesced; consenting to the discussion of certain impersonal changes as of more importance than any changes of place. He confesses now that he did wrong in thus renewing his connexion with the Cabinet—but at the same time he makes another confession which aggravates the offence he would have us so easily condone. In his speech on Monday evening, he used these remarkable words, according to the *Times* report:—

My own impression was, not that the Duke of Newcastle was unfit for the War Department, but that, as I have stated, either the Prime Minister himself should constantly exert himself to hurry on and hasten preparations, or else that the War Minister should be a person of extraordinary authority and energy. (Hear, hear.) My belief is—and I will state it now—that, *And the Prime Minister been a man whose persuasions and dispositions would lead him to hasten on with eagerness the preparations and arrangements for war* (hear, hear), the Duke of Newcastle would have been perfectly competent for the department which he held; and I think, also, that if he had had for a War Secretary a person of pre-eminent energy and authority, from the offices which he had before held, the Earl of Aberdeen would have been a Prime Minister quite fitted to conduct our affairs to a successful issue. But I did not think that the combination of the two did insure the efficiency of the public service. (Hear, hear.) Now, Sir, it was in perfect conformity with what I have just stated, that I addressed a private letter on the 8th of October to the Duke of Newcastle, in which I said, "You have done all you could do," meaning thereby, that he had proposed the measures which he thought necessary, and that having been overruled by other departments, it did not depend on him to do more. But, at the same time, I wrote to another colleague of mine, to whom I stated that it appeared to me very desirable that the Prime Minister should from time to time lend to the War Department all the authority which it needed.

Hence it appears, that of Lord John's dissatisfaction the Duke of Newcastle was not the only object. The Earl of Aberdeen had also fallen under his suspicion, as indisposed by opinion and nature to the vigorous prosecution of the war. So strong was his sense of this incapacity in the head of the Government, that he thought it required for its counteraction a War Minister of the genius of Chatham. So far was this from being a faint or transient impression, that he stated it to "another colleague,"—thereby giving it all the force of a conviction and a warning. But he let it go no further. He concealed it from the man to whom, above all others, its disclosure was due, but with whom he continued to correspond in apparent cordiality. He displayed an irritable jealousy and a restless discomfort as to his position in the Cabinet, but never showed his consciousness of high moral rank by the bold avowal of patriotic discontent. He had pledged himself to the House of Commons, before its dispersion in July, that the war should be conducted on a scale and with an energy commensurate with the hopes of Europe and the power of England. He met the House on its re-assembling in December with an unflinching defence of failures in the Baltic and of disasters at the Crimea—undertook to recover the lost prestige of British arms by the aid of foreign mercenaries—and resumed his seat at the Council-board with the same face of self-satisfied dissatisfaction he had worn since he entered the Cabinet. He beheld the army wasting away at the rate of a hundred men per day. He felt the heart of the nation beat thick with anxiety and dismay. He heard the complaint of our allies, that they were condemned to inglorious inactivity by the inability of our contingent to serve at the guns or to wield the bayonet. He knew that that exertion of undivided authority, by a man of extraordinary ability, which he had desiderated six months before for the success of the expedition, was now essential to the salvation of its remnant. But all this time, and with all this knowledge—distrusting the Premier and despising the Minister—he kept his peace; or

broke it only to criticize that precious scheme of administration which the Cabinet appears to have kept on the table from the beginning of December till the end of January. It was surely bad enough to have nurtured a secret and professedly abandoned dissatisfaction with a colleague, on whose competence or incompetence might hang the fate of an empire. It was too bad to extend that dissatisfaction to the Queen's chief adviser. It was worse than all to conceal the whole from the Cabinet and the country alike, until the swell of a Parliamentary tempest threatened to sweep away the whole fabric of general incompetence and mutual suspicion.

We say, that after the disclosures thus concluded (for we presume that the Duke of Newcastle feels no necessity to reply to Lord John's rejoinder)—with the facts now before us, we say, the heaviest burden of culpability where all are heavily burdened, lies upon the chief of the "old Whig party." He claims to have been the mainstay of the Cabinet, the leader of the House, the prescient statesman and the anxious patriot. Yet does he not pretend to say, that he exerted the authority of his position, evoked the faintest breath of the influence at his command, was inspired by his foresight to decision, or diminished his holidays by a single hour. He was either the most conceited or the most powerful member of the Coalition—yet he did no more to arrest its progress down the descent on which they had launched our army, than did Sir Charles Wood or Bernal Osborne. Therefore, we say, he is the guiltiest—except that his last speech exhibits him as the shallowest. He defends an act of palpable desertion by a profession of acute conscientiousness—and thereby reproaches with fatter hardihood the men whom he still claims as friends, and even his own nominees to the office he had failed to appropriate to his party. He makes confession, as of venial errors, of the gravest faults of which statesmen can be guilty—namely, the silence of misprision, and the haste of cowardice. He pilfers from Mr. Fox a platitude on the identity of sound morality with sound policy, only to provoke the demand whether it be sound morality to withdraw the plea of "Not Guilty" only when conviction is certain and judgment may be severe. He appeals with ineffectual pathos to the testimony of a life-time at the moment that men are recollecting how he once intrigued against Peel, and how repeatedly he has betrayed his own party. He confesses with a ludicrous unconsciousness to the ludicrous, his willingness to have undertaken the stupendous labour for which he had prescribed the revival of a genius like the elder Pitt; and exposes the sores of morbid vanity and humbled pride in every fresh attempt to gather up his tattered robe of statesmanship. There wanted nothing to the completeness of a spectacle at once so melancholy and gratifying—a spectacle of retributive justice—but the recital of his late unavailing attempt to form a Government, and the re-distribution of his tentative compliments. This latter, indeed, is a vice common to all the dismembered Coalitionists: every one bedaubing his fellow with the untempered mortar of eulogy which cannot pretend to sincerity—the country looking on disgusted while men whose mutual aversions are notorious exhaust the English dictionary in exclaiming each other from the blame of English disaster. But Lord John's inability to reunite a Ministry under his headship, marks the close of a career which has been far too long for his country's good or his own fame. Twenty years ago, he might have ascended to the Valhalla of British statesmen—now he is condemned for life to the limbo of rejected Ministers.

LATEST ILLUSTRATIONS OF "THE SYSTEM"—AND OF THE MINISTERIAL DEFENCE.

TRANSPORT ships hired at sums running up to £90,000 per annum, and lying idle round the coast of the Crimea, or in the harbours of Turkey—a cargo of potatoes, refused a landing-place at Balaklava, given away by the captain, and re-sold, at enormous prices, by sutlers who got them for nothing, to the army for whom they were provided—one large supply of winter clothing rotted by bilge-water and pounded by the cannon-balls stacked upon it—fifty feet square of tarpaulin, and the service of a ship's company for its erection into a shed, thrown away at that "model dockyard" of Admiral Berkeley's correspondent—the continued use of unroasted and unground coffee, notwithstanding that, according to a Parliamentary return, 94,000 lbs of roasted and ground coffee have been sent out—the disappearance of 2,500 ponies, purchased for the transport service at £7 a-piece, and left to kick each other to death at Varna?—these are among the latest instances that have come to light of the way the money goes, and the army has already gone.

And as these dismal illustrations of a demented incapacity multiply upon us, the miserable style of apology we have already noted is heard over again. It is heard this week from the *Economist*—a journal that, if usually the vehicle of Ministerial

views, is usually ingenious in its method of conveying them. Reprobating the late debate and division in the House of Commons, the *Economist* says:—

The whole current of the debate, and all the authentic facts before the House, showed that the immediate fault lay somewhere abroad and not anywhere at home; and all that was needed for the success and comfort of the army had been supplied; that all that Ministers could do had been done, and done as early as could have been expected; that everything had been sent, and had arrived; that if the army possessed nothing, Balaklava possessed everything; that in fact, whoever was to blame, Ministers were not to blame; that whoever had shown indolence or incompetency, Ministers had shown neither. The fault, if fault there be—as fault there must be—lay out there. The business of Government is to supply means; the business of the army is to use them. Government is not to carry up stores and provisions from Balaklava to the camp; that is the duty of the commissariat. Government is not to collect baggage horses; that is the duty of the transport service. Government is not to make roads; that is the work of Sappers and Miners. What Government ought to do, and, proverbially has done, is to place ample means at the command of the Commissariat Department, to supply each department of the service with what the officers at its head need and ask for, to see that the army has sappers and miners, artillery and ammunition;—in a word, to take care that the country supplies and sends out to the army all that the army requires. This is notorious that the Government has done: the choked condition of Balaklava proves it: no one, we believe, denies it. To blame the Duke of Newcastle, or Mr. Sidney Herbert, or the Treasury, therefore, is simply to select for condemnation the very men who, of all others, have most certainly discharged their duty and done their part.

As well might it be said that the Queen's Ministers, the Imperial Government, are simply a company of provision merchants, contracting to supply our army in the Crimea. The writer himself perceives how low and false a position he has assigned to the men he would exculpate—for, in the next paragraph, he confesses that Ministers "are answerable, not only for providing supplies, but for selecting officers capable of utilizing and distributing those supplies;" and he gives them up to "vituperation" and punishment if they be proved guilty in this particular. On which we are obviously led to remark—first, that the country has a right to assume their guilt from the confessed condition of the army; and secondly, that to trace home and proportion the blame is the object of the inquiry which the *Economist* denounces as more "incredibly insane" than any frenzy of fickle Athens or revolutionary France. The presumption of culpability in the highest places was strengthened by the most patent facts. Long after it was known in England that the army had suffered gratuitous hardships from the loss of its tents, baggage, and transport service, there was heard from the organs of the Government nothing but strains of commendation and assurance. Until the Peel fund had actually begun to be expended in the purchase of hospital necessities, the perfection of those institutions was stoutly maintained. When the War Ministers had to meet Parliament, they took credit for the profuseness of their provision, and made no complaint of obstruction by subordinates. Up to the moment of Lord Raglan's dismissal of Dr. Lawson, there had not been given the slightest official intimation of Governmental displeasure. The mishaps of the expedition began in September—yet not a confession of mistake, much less a remedial effort, was made before January. When voluntary offers of co-operation with Government were made, they were either repelled or trifled with. It was made clear, by the fate of Price's Candle Company's project, that there was some fault at home,—and the public naturally magnified its amount to the extent of the whole round of disasters. Now that the Secretary of one department has publicly invoked destruction on another—the Admiralty crying out that the Horse Guards must be abolished for the salvation of the army—this very natural exertion of the public imagination is certified as a logical process. The whole question is now narrowed to this—Why did not Ministers set up in September the dictatorship they are going to ask for some time in this month or the next? That they did not perceive the necessity, or had not the courage to act upon that perception, is so huge an error, and has produced such calamitous consequences, that no excuse can be received and no forgiveness extended. Newcastle and Sidney Herbert worked as clerks—laboriously, faithfully, earnestly: that they had not the faculty of statesmanship is their country's misfortune, but it is also their condemnation.

Last night's *Gazette* contains a further Brevet. It consists chiefly of promotions in the East India Company's service. There are also a considerable number of promotions of meritorious sergeants as corporals, and ensigns without purchase.

The *Gazette* also contains a despatch from Field-Marshal Lord Raglan, dated October 29, and enclosing a letter from General Canrobert, mentioning the wounding of Brigadier-General Rose, attached to the French staff, and highly complimenting Commandeur Vico, a French General attached to the English staff. Also a despatch from Major-General Jones of the Royal Engineers, commanding the services of Captain Munday, R.N., during the siege of Bomarsund.

THE MINISTERIAL CRISIS.

The *Times* of Monday contains a *resumé* of the Ministerial difficulties and negotiations of the past week, which, with some abridgement, we subjoin, as giving a clear and connected account of what has taken place:— "Although but forty-eight hours have elapsed since our last publication, that interval of time has seen two or three Ministerial combinations discussed, attempted, and abandoned; and it was not till yesterday afternoon that hopes could be entertained of the definitive solution of this crisis by placing the power to form an Administration in Lord Palmerston's hands.

"The public learnt on Wednesday last that upon the resignation of the Aberdeen Cabinet, her Majesty had immediately summoned Lord Derby to form the new Government. That scheme failed, as we had anticipated, within a very few hours; and we may here remark, in passing, that we have no reason to credit the assertion of the Tory organs, that Lord Palmerston ever gave even a qualified or conditional assent to Lord Derby's propositions. Lord Derby's negotiation was chiefly important because it proved that there was no reluctance on his part to accept the co-operation, not only of Lord Palmerston, but of Mr. Gladstone and the other friends of Sir Robert Peel, for he at once addressed himself to them, and on their refusal he desisted altogether from the attempt.

"These negotiations occupied the greater part of three days. On Thursday afternoon the Marquis of Lansdowne was summoned to Windsor, and on the following morning he had interviews with several members of the late Administration, for the purpose, as we are told, of informing them of her Majesty's intentions. Later on Friday, Lord John Russell had an audience of the Queen, and in the course of Saturday it transpired that the late President of the Council was himself engaged, by her Majesty's commands, in the attempt to reconstitute the Government. This intelligence was received with the utmost astonishment and, we will add, dismay. Lord John Russell soon found, on addressing himself to his former colleagues, and even to his own personal friends, that the most honourable and eminent among them were in no way disposed to connect their names with so discreditable a transaction. It is almost superfluous to state, that Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Sidney Herbert absolutely refused to take any part in the Government Lord John Russell proposed to form, and we are also informed, though we do not speak with entire certainty of the fact, that Lord Olenendon, Lord Granville, Lord Cranworth, and Sir George Grey, four Whig members of the late Administration, whose character is entitled to the utmost respect for their high sense of political duty and honour, declined, with equal firmness to act with Lord John Russell after the circumstances which have lately taken place. It is well known that these Ministers have not concealed their unqualified disapproval of Lord John Russell's conduct, and they would have lowered the dignity of public men in this country, and disgraced the traditions of constitutional government, if they had consented to serve under a Minister who had risen to power by such means.

"After these two abortive attempts to form an Administration, by Lord Derby and Lord John Russell, on a Tory or a Whig basis, Her Majesty confided the task to Lord Palmerston, and at the latest hour to which our intelligence extends, it was believed that he was successfully engaged in the prosecution of the task which public opinion had already assigned to him. The Queen has thus exhausted the three combinations which obviously presented themselves in dealing with this arduous crisis, and tried the two expedients which we had from the first described as 'useless and impossible,' before she resorted to the final and successful measure. In taking this deliberate course, Her Majesty is understood to have followed the constitutional principles to which she has on all former occasions adhered. Lord Aberdeen's Ministry was overthrown by a large majority in the House of Commons, and the results of that division were the ostensible facts which regulate the choice of the Crown. Taking the list of the majority, Her Majesty observed, in the first place, that Lord Derby's supporters form at least two-thirds of the whole number. Lord Derby is therefore first summoned to the royal closet. Upon his failure, her Majesty, as the remainder of the adverse majority consists of some eighty-eight followers, or supposed followers, of Lord John Russell, addressed a summons to Lord John, and he, too, makes a vain attempt. But it is not until after both the sections composing the majority have been tried and failed, that her Majesty proceeds to call upon the leaders of the minority, who were the parties ostensibly beaten on the division of the 22nd of January, to reconstitute the Government."

The movements of our leading statesmen during the past week are worthy of being chronicled, as throwing a light upon the progress of the Ministerial negotiations. On Tuesday evening, the Earl of Derby was commanded to wait upon the Queen next morning. Her Majesty arrived at Buckingham Palace about eleven o'clock on Wednesday; and within half an hour Lord Derby had an audience, which lasted nearly two hours. Leaving the Queen, Lord Derby called upon Lord Palmerston; and, returning to the Palace, again had an interview with her Majesty; after which the Queen left town. During the afternoon Lord Derby received visits from the Marquis of Lansdowne, and in the evening from several of his supporters. On Thursday, the Earl of Derby waited

upon her Majesty at Windsor Castle, and declined the task of forming an Administration. The same evening, Lord Lansdowne, by command, waited upon her Majesty; remained at the Castle all night; had another interview in the morning, and returned to town. On his arrival at Lansdowne House, yesterday, he sent for Mr. Gladstone, who, on departing, proceeded to call upon Mr. Sidney Herbert. After these interviews, Lord Lansdowne called upon Lord John Russell, with whom he staid half an hour; he next visited Lord Palmerston; and again had an audience of her Majesty, who had arrived in town from Windsor. Lord John Russell was commanded to wait upon the Queen—to give her Majesty, it is said, an opportunity of ascertaining his opinions on the state of parties. In the evening, Lord John Russell and Lord Palmerston waited by appointment upon the Marquis of Lansdowne. Lord John Russell waited upon her Majesty, at Buckingham Palace, on Saturday afternoon. The noble lord arrived shortly before two o'clock, and remained for some time with her Majesty. Lord Palmerston afterwards had an interview with the Queen, and shortly afterwards the Earl of Clarendon arrived at the Palace, and remained for some time in consultation with her Majesty. Soon after Lord John Russell's audience of the Queen, his lordship visited Viscount Palmerston and Mr. Gladstone at their respective residences. Lord John also visited other members of the late Cabinet, besides despatching various letters to the influential members of his party. Mr. Sidney Herbert was in long consultation with the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Later in the day the Duke of Argyll visited Mr. Gladstone, and, after leaving, the noble duke visited the Earl of Aberdeen. At 5 o'clock in the afternoon, Lord John Russell had an interview with Sir George Grey, at the Privy Council-office. Sir James Graham, owing to a continuance of his indisposition, has been unable to take any part in the Ministerial negotiations.

In a leading article on Friday, the *Times* made the following extraordinary statement:—"The Queen herself is known to have expressed to Lord John Russell, in an autograph letter, her sense of conduct so much at variance with the common principles of truth and honesty, and we are convinced that nothing but absolute necessity will induce the Queen to summon to the head of her councils a Minister who, for his own selfish objects, has not hesitated to betray them." This statement the *Daily News*, which has warmly advocated the cause of the ex-President of the Council since his resignation, and strenuously defended his political integrity, protests against, and believes to be perfectly untrue. On Monday, the liberal journal gives its own version of Lord John's attempt to form a Ministry:—"To the honour of the Queen be it said, the simple word of a man whose life ought to have been an adequate reply to his calumniators, was deemed enough; and believing that he would be able in half an hour to rend to shreds the web of quibbles and misstatements used against him in Parliament, her Majesty desired Lord John to attempt a reconstruction of the Government. This was late in the afternoon of Friday, and in the course of the following day his lordship received intimations from several of the leading members of his party, including Lord Palmerston, that they were ready to serve along with him. Lord Clarendon, and one or two others, however, declined; and Lord John thereupon abandoned the undertaking. Lord Palmerston was subsequently invited to assume the post vacated by Lord Aberdeen, and thus the crisis has been brought to a termination. Some minor places will have to be filled up; and there will be, in consequence, three or four new elections. But of the change in the general policy of the Government it would be premature to speak until we have its programme."

Lord Derby's failure provoked a very angry article in the *Morning Herald* against Lord Palmerston, for refusing to serve under the Conservative leader. In a leading article on Friday, the Tory journal admits that the noble earl committed a fault in consenting to mix himself up in negotiations with any but his own party. The *Press*, reputed to be Mr. Disraeli's organ, has a somewhat singular statement on the mysterious negotiations:—

We have reason to believe, that the Earl of Derby did not decline to form an Administration when graciously consulted on that subject by her Majesty. On the contrary, we are assured his lordship pledged himself, that under no circumstances should her Majesty be left without a Ministry, and that he and his friends were perfectly prepared to form one, if all efforts failed to construct a strong Government, which the interests of the country required. With this view we hear that the Earl of Derby advised her Majesty to have recourse to several combinations before the Queen should appeal to a party which, though singly the most numerous in the House of Commons, cannot command an absolute majority in that House, and had already been defeated by the combined sections.

The application by the Earl of Derby to Lord Palmerston, to join the intended Administration and take the lead of the House of Commons, was one of these combinations, and was an arrangement, we have reason to believe, pressed upon the noble earl by Mr. Disraeli, with whose pretensions to that post it might seem to conflict.

We have understood that the application of Lord Derby was most favourably received by Lord Palmerston, the noble lord expressing his readiness to serve under Lord Derby, and his sense of duty, which ought to influence public men at this moment in rallying round their Sovereign. His lordship, we are assured, stated, as was anticipated, his difficulty in joining the Administration alone, and the names of two of his friends, Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Herbert, were mentioned as those of persons he wished to accompany him. No obstacles were urged to such an alliance, both these right hon. gentlemen having been originally, and for a long period, members of the Conservative party. The interview with Lord Palmerston was so satisfactory, and promised to be so conclusive, that the Earl of Derby, it appears, felt him-

self justified in returning immediately to the palace, and informing her Majesty of the prospect of a result anxiously desired at this critical moment by her Majesty, viz., the formation of a strong Conservative Government. About midnight, after a suspicious delay of ten hours, a communication from Lord Palmerston was received by the Earl of Derby, closing in a very unsatisfactory manner the negotiations, and forwarding communications from Mr. Herbert and Mr. Gladstone in the same spirit.

This circumstantial statement is, however, denied by the *Observer*, which says—"We are enabled positively to state, that the Queen made no conditions with Lord Derby when her Majesty entrusted him with the formation of a Ministry. Neither is it true that Lord Derby made any stipulations, such as are alleged, with Lord Palmerston, when he asked that noble lord, without success, to join his Administration. The negotiation broke down at once."

With respect to the other daily papers it will suffice to say, that the *Morning Post* is the staunch and enthusiastic supporter of the Premiership of Lord Palmerston, and that the *Morning Advertiser* also warmly supports the noble Viscount, affirming, with its usual confidence, that one of his first acts will be the recall of Lord Raglan from the Crimea. The *Morning Chronicle* has been chiefly distinguishable for its bitter denunciation of Lord John Russell for his abandonment of the late Ministry. The Peelite organ seems prepared to give up the Earl of Aberdeen, the Duke of Newcastle, and even Mr. Sydney Herbert; but it would view the removal of Mr. Gladstone, Sir J. Graham, and the Earl of Clarendon, as an act of madness. The *Chronicle* would be very glad if Lord J. Russell and Mr. Disraeli would pair off for the season. The *Standard* of Thursday contained the following:—"It is believed in the best informed quarters, that the following gentlemen have already consented to fill the undermentioned offices in the new Cabinet:—Lord Derby, as Premier; Lord Palmerston, as Minister of War; Mr. Disraeli, as Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs; Lord Grey, as Secretary of State for Home Department; Sir J. Pakington, as Chancellor of the Exchequer." Another statement was, that if Lord Derby had succeeded in forming a Government, Lord Ellenborough, "that clever, dashing, and eloquent, but erratic and unsafe statesman," the would-be Chatham of the present crisis, would have been War Minister, and Lord Stratford de Redcliffe a member of the new Administration.

The *Edinburgh Scotsman* has the following remarks worthy of attention:—"Except in having upheld Lord Aberdeen as the most sagacious of statesmen, the *Times* has been so consistent in nothing as in denouncing Lord Palmerston as the most mischievous of quacks. But he is now the only man to redeem, as Premier, the mischiefs done by Lord Aberdeen. Against Earl Grey the accusations were even grosser. Besides general incompetency or impracticability, he was incessantly accused of nepotism the most systematic and extensive ever perpetrated by a British statesman. It would be difficult to find two men less likely to work together amicably than Lord Palmerston and Lord Grey. Besides old quarrels and opposite temperaments—the one gay and rapid, the other morose and minute—they are of two quite different schools as to the whole class of questions out of which the war has arisen and on which it bears. The one is the very champion of active intervention in European affairs; the other is, in that respect, a man after Mr. Cobden's own heart. Of all the strange caprices we have witnessed, perhaps none is more perplexing than this proposal to meet the demand for 'the more vigorous prosecution of the war,' by entrusting its conduct to a statesman who declared only last season that it ought never to have been begun. And yet we doubt not that if he undertake the duty, he will do it well—and then get his reward in denunciation and expulsion."

While the affairs of this country have been waiting the convenience of a few great aristocratic families, public feeling against our oligarchical tendencies seems to have been increasing. The *Times* has daily growled its displeasure at the inconvenience caused by these punctilios, and on Monday gives very audible expression to a few plain-spoken truths. It complains that the people are silent, indifferent, and calls upon them to speak out, if they really have any will in the matter, or wish to keep that will.

It is the cause not only of European independence, but of political liberty, that is in danger. With breakers ahead, we are ready to drive ashore. The contagion of anarchy seems to have come to us across the Black Sea, and all are at once at cross purposes. Everybody seems to be emulating the rival functionaries at Sertari and Balaklava, and treating the country much as those personages have done the British army. The long reign of oligarchies has created a political monopoly in favour of a few men, and they are letting the country go to wrack. Already the scandalous breakdown of our military system has been chuckled over in every foreign Court. With our military reputation thus gone for the present, what will Europe think, too, of our precious constitution, which we have tried to force upon every country in the world, when it is found to work only for the private interests of a small knot of statesmen, and to enable them to use their country's extremity as a lever to help them into office? If the British people does not see the ultimate tendency of all this, we will venture to enlighten their innocence. These are the steps by which constitutional nations sink into despotism. They are rapidly leading us towards that very state of things which in France has been held to justify the Imperial usurpation.

These sentiments find expression in other quarters. Thus the *Daily News* publishes a letter from a correspondent (which it believes to be a true picture of a state of feeling and opinion very rapidly spreading among the middle classes), who complains, that the English constitution, as lately exhibited, is a "folly and delusion."

I believe that Whigs, Liberals, Peelites, Tories, Conservatives, and Derbyites, have been only playing, and, if we allow them, will only continue to play, on the State

stage, in tragedy and farce, the rogues and fools by turns; and I begin to doubt whether I shall not satisfy my own conscience by turning downright republican, or by agreeing to submit myself to a despotism. On the whole, I am inclined to believe the more heartily in the efficacy of a wholesome capable tyranny. Why are the destinies of this country and its colonies to be for ever played at foot-ball with by a special clique of some dozen official families? Everyone can name them. Do the communities of thinking and working subjects of the Queen, spread over the face of the land, believe that this is an inevitable necessity—that they could not among themselves find the men to do the work better?

In a similar spirit writes the caustic and Radical "Stranger in Parliament" in the *Leader*. He accounts for the prolongation of the crisis by the fact, that both Lord Derby and Lord John Russell are the heads of parties; and must, one or the other, be consulted and conciliated, whatever betide. "Lord Palmerston is popular—not powerful." He will have to depend upon certain great Whig families:—"It may be true that Lord Grey would be a capital minister of this, and Lord Ellenborough an excellent minister of that. But these are merely clever men—earls, it is true; but not nobles representative of other nobles, and of noble combinations. Hence they have to wait until a chief like Lord Derby, or like Lord John Russell, having arranged with the Queen, arranges with them. Perhaps a great individuality, say like Mr. Gladstone, might destroy this system, by counter-conspiring with his sovereign and his middle-class public against the conspiracy of the nobles to wield exclusively the power of the realm of England. But—Mr. Gladstone probably thinks that the nobles are rather strong: warned by the fate of Peel, and by the miserable life of Canning, he prefers, like Mr. Disraeli, to make use of the Marquises of Carabas."

The influential voice of "S. G. O." is again heard in the *Times* in connection with the Ministerial crisis and Crimean disasters. He loudly demands the recall of Lord Raglan, whose incapacity is shown, not only in the letters of newspaper correspondents, "but in the outpourings of the disappointed, disgusted hearts of experienced officers, who, loving the man, stand amazed at his want of all that which, as a general, should make him respected." "S. G. O." continues:—

What do the public really care whether Lord John Russell is the pitiable thing the Duke of Newcastle and his own speech seem to prove him to be? It may be a serious question to those who, Whig-bound by the fostered prejudices of years, think there can be no progress in liberality and freedom unless this one lord is to lead, or, at least, to hold the power to destroy those who won't move at his command. Does the country, using its own sober discretion, see its only safety in the rule of some one of half-a-dozen lords who have been tried again and again, until the history of modern times is a mere kaleidoscope, showing the shaking of these aristocratic fragments into different patterns, each the wonder of one day, the contempt of the next?

Poor England! poor army! Still, sing thy cherished National Anthem; still shout, for its music's sake, "Rule Britannia!" but do, with something like consistency, be up at this time to set, to save your Queen from becoming the Sovereign of a country that knows not how to afford her a Ministry, save her an army, or employ for her a fleet.

That cool, calculating discretion, which in common hours of trial bids the land be quiet, lest talking to those who steer the State's vessel should disturb them, is now treason.

The worst feature of the worst democracy could show nothing worse, nothing more ominous than the passive submission of the subjects of a constitutional monarchy, for the sake of an aristocracy, to a tampering with every private principle, every public obligation, which should uphold the honour of the monarch.

ARBITRATION INSTEAD OF WAR.

It is rather curious, that at this very time, when the Peace party appear to be so much at a discount in this country, there comes out a singular proof how some of their principles are being gradually adopted by statesmen and governments. In the important treaty between this country and the United States of America, to which Her Majesty referred at the opening of the last session of Parliament, and which has just been presented to both Houses by command of Her Majesty, we find that the very first article embodies in its fullest form the principle of arbitration, which the Peace party have so long advocated, and that almost in the very words of Mr. Cobden's celebrated motion in Parliament five years ago. The article relates to the question of the fisheries, which, a year or two ago, were so menacing an aspect on the relations of the two countries. It provides "that in order to prevent or settle any disputes as to the places to which the reservation of exclusive right" to British fishermen and the fishermen of the United States, apply, each of the high contracting parties, on the application of either to the other, shall, within six months thereafter, appoint a commissioner. The commissioner shall then name some third person to act as an arbitrator or umpire in any case on which they may themselves differ in opinion. If they should not be able to agree as to this third person, they shall each name a person, and it shall be determined by lot which of the two persons so named shall be arbitrator or umpire. After prescribing a solemn declaration to be taken both by the commissioners and arbitrator, "that they will impartially and carefully examine and decide, to the best of their judgment, and according to justice and equity without fear, favour or affection," the article closes as follows:—

The High Contracting Parties hereby solemnly engage to consider the decision of the commissioners conjointly, or of the arbitrator or umpire, as the case may be, as absolutely final and conclusive in each case decided upon by them or him respectively.

Few will doubt that this would be a more rational method of settling disputes between nations, than that

now adopted in the East of Europe. It is earnestly to be hoped, therefore, that when the treaties are formed, which are to conclude the present war, some such provision as the above may be inserted. Immanuel Kant, the celebrated German philosopher, in his work on *Perpetual Peace*, lays down as the first condition for the attainment of this state, that when peace treaties are made, the utmost care should be taken that those treaties do not contain the germs of a future war; and surely the total absence of any provision by which differences may be solved, without having recourse to arms, must be considered as a defect directly tending to war, by leaving the highest interests of nations exposed to the exciting passions and hazardous accidents of the moment.

SHAKSPEAREAN LECTURES AND READINGS.

Mr. O. Cowden Clarke concluded, on Monday evening, a course of four lectures, at the London Institution, Finsbury-circus, on Shakspeare's Philosophers and Jesters. We had not the good fortune to hear more than one of the course—but from that we confidently judge that the whole might be described as did the lecturer Touchstone's talk—"a rich amalgam of sweet temper and untiring humour." It appeared an odd classification of Shakspearean characters—that of Philosophers and Fools; but good reason was shown for it, excellent illustrations of each character afforded, and much independent discoursing of wisdom and humour. To an audience capable of appreciation—as is that which gathered in the London Institution—these lectures are a high intellectual gratification.

Exeter Hall has been put to a new use. Mrs. Fanny Kemble gave, on Monday last, the first of a series of Readings from Shakspeare, with musical accompaniments. The play selected was "A Midsummer Night's Dream,"—and the music was Mendelssohn's, conducted by Benedict. Both features of the entertainment gave unbounded satisfaction to an audience which filled every part of the great hall.

Miss Glynn resumed her Readings at the Polytechnic, on Thursday last, with the "Merchant of Venice." To-morrow she reads "Othello."

LONDON SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY.

A drifting snow-storm and a biting east wind did not prevent a goodly assemblage at Exeter Hall on Wednesday evening last, to listen to the performance of Haydn's *Oration*, under the auspices of Mr. Surman, the experienced conductor of the above society, and his numerous band of chorists. We do not pretend that the Hall was full, but we were only surprised to see so many present. The performance passed off satisfactorily. The chorus seemed perfectly familiar with the *chef-d'œuvre* of Haydn, and gave full expression to his massive harmonies. The solo parts were taken by Mrs. Sunderland, Mr. Donald King, and the veteran Mr. Phillips. The lady was in excellent voice, and sang with great clearness and carefulness. Both the style of her singing and quality of voice suggested the inquiry, why she is not oftener heard on the platform of Exeter Hall. The beautiful air, "On Mighty Pens," was given with much expression, marred only by occasional liberties with the text. Mr. Phillips received a cordial welcome, more perhaps for his past reputation than his present ability to sustain it. The audience testified their pleasure with the performance by frequent applause, which was renewed at its close.

MEETING OF DISSENTING DEPUTIES.

On Thursday, at two o'clock, the annual meeting of Dissenting deputies, of three religious denominations, residing within twelve miles of London, was held at the Guildhall Hotel, King-street, Cheapside. Mr. ARTHUR PELLATT, M.P., occupied the chair, and there was a goodly attendance of deputies. Among the gentlemen present, besides the chairman, were Mr. B. Hanbury, Mr. Josiah Conder, Mr. James Powell, Mr. Beddome, Mr. R. H. Terrell, Mr. Charles Reed, Mr. James Carter, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. William Tozer, and Mr. Hopkins.

The CHAIRMAN having briefly opened the proceedings,

Mr. HULL TERRELL (the secretary) read a letter from Mr. S. Morton Peto, who has long been chairman of the Association, stating that he had determined, during the time he was out of Parliament, to resign every public appointment that he held, and among the rest, the chairmanship of this society. He felt that their chairman ought to have a seat in Parliament, as then in connexion with "the Liberty Committee" their battle must be fought.

The SECRETARY then proceeded to read the annual report of the committee of deputies, which was a very long and comprehensive document, and related, among other things, the history of legislation and the exertions of the committee during the past year in reference to the Dissenters' Marriage Acts, the Abolition of Church Rates, the Burials beyond the Metropolis Bill, the Mortmain Bill, the Bill for substituting Declarations for Oaths, the Colonial Clergy Disabilities Bill, the Episcopal and Capitular Estates Bill, and the Oxford University Bill. It concluded in these terms:—In closing their report, the committee would urge their constituents to renewed and increased exertion. The deputies are an ancient and respectable body, and although having their basis in the metropolitan protestant dissenting congregations, have long been the sure the religious liberties and co-religionists throughout the country. Occasionally lent a friendly hand to those who were threatened or were threatened on religious grounds. Within the last year you have aided the oppressed in

Switzerland, and in the German States. For many years the attention of the deputies has been chiefly directed to secure the faithful administration of the laws touching religion, especially in the country districts of England and Wales, and they have often strengthened the courage of those who were ready to yield or to faint; but now your chief concerns are higher, and your aim to operate on the makers of the laws, by resisting or modifying all new projects in favour of the Established Church, and by introducing measures for your own ease and convenience; and on the principle on which the deputies have ever acted in all their numerous communications with her Majesty's advisers, and in all their petitions to Parliament, they have never selfishly asked for themselves what they would not as freely give to others; and it were to be desired that all other religious bodies would imitate their example. They have gone on perseveringly in the one straight path of seeking to secure, enlarge, and strengthen the religious freedom of mankind, as subjects of the highest governor.

Mr. JOSIAH CONDER, in moving the adoption of the report, said it was a most interesting and encouraging document, and that it would show the public that the committee had been exerting themselves, and making their influence effectually felt during the past year. Their obligations were eminently due to Mr. Pellatt for taking the chair on this occasion, and for his great exertions and watchful and enlightened zeal in promoting their views and interests in Parliament. He (Mr. Conder) considered there was no subject which more affected their community than that of the burial question. He was glad to find that that question had been taken up with energy by Mr. Pellatt; for, in the legislation on the subject, they stood in great danger of losing their common law rights in reference to sepulture which inalienably belonged to them. The deputies had been silently, but efficiently, exerting themselves in carrying out the objects of their organization, and he trusted the report would not be mere waste paper, but that each gentleman present would take it home and bring it properly before the congregation with which he was connected and the social circle in which he moved. (Hear.)

The motion was seconded by Mr. B. DIXON.

Mr. JOHN CUNNINGTON, of Brentford, stated that in the parish in which he resided he had always made it his business to attend the church-rate meetings, and to move a counter resolution to the church-rate; and he could bear his testimony that the cause of the abolition of church-rates was gradually gaining ground, and especially among churchmen themselves. (Hear, hear.) He would tender his humble advice to his brother deputies, that in carrying out their projects they would do so in a liberal and patriotic spirit. (Hear, hear.)

The motion for adopting and circulating the report was then put and agreed to unanimously; as were also two petitions to Parliament, one of which prayed for ameliorations of the marriage laws as affecting dissenters, and the other for removal of general grievances which they allege still stand in the way of their religious duty.

Mr. CUNNINGTON complained that in the last petition no allusion was made to the desirability of substituting a declaration for an oath in all cases where a person objects to take an oath from conscientious scruples, and he suggested that it should be amended in that respect.

The CHAIRMAN said he would take that opportunity of stating how much pleasure he felt in congratulating the deputies that the laborious duties which had devolved upon the committee had not been without fruit. The last session of Parliament, taken as a whole, was perhaps the most productive of progress in civil and religious liberty, particularly in reference to dissenters, of any session for many years past. He regretted that peculiar circumstances, over which Mr. Peto had no control, had for the present excluded him from Parliament, for he (the chairman) had lost in that gentleman an enlightened and zealous ally. They might rest assured that he (the chairman) should on every practicable occasion press their distinctive principles on the attention and consideration of the house, with the view to the removal of their remaining grievances. He congratulated them upon the progress which the question of the abolition of church rates had of late made in the House of Commons. That progress had been so manifest, that he was not sure but that the speediest way of procuring the abolition would be to leave it to the churchmen themselves in the House. By far the greatest impression had been made in the House during the last session of parliament on the subject, and he could not doubt they would be eventually successful. The Colonial Churches Bill was also of a character which interested them. The dissenters in the colonies, he perceived from a recent newspaper from Melbourne, were fighting their own battles, in which they were assisted by the Attorney-General there, who was about to introduce a bill for the relief of their grievances. He (the chairman) was of opinion that Church of Englandism was a system which could never be transplanted into colonies. It was essentially an aristocratic system, and therefore it could never take root or thrive in a new colony. The hon. gentleman then briefly adverted to the efforts now being made by the dissenting body in the work of education; and in conclusion, congratulated the meeting on the prospect of a speedy removal of the grievances to which their community had long been subject in reference to the burial of their dead, and a recognition of their common-law right on that subject, which grievances constituted the last rag of intolerance exercised towards them on the part of the clergy. (Hear, hear.)

The chairman was then elected president of the society in the room of Mr. Peto; thanks were voted to the retiring chairman, to the committee, and also to Mr. Pellatt for presiding on the present occasion; and, some other routine business having been transacted, the meeting separated.

THE LIBEL CASE—DAVIES v. PRATT.

At the re-opening of the Arbitrator's Court on Wednesday last, the examination of witnesses for the defence was continued. The Rev. B. Hollis, Dr. Campbell, and the Rev. G. Thompson, were examined. Neither of these gentlemen deposed to anything important. Dr. Campbell's evidence was as follows:—

I am senior pastor of the congregation assembling at the Tabernacle, Moorfields. I have been so for twenty-seven years. I have been editor of the *British Banner* from its establishment. It was especially established to promote the interests of religion—particularly of Christian missions. I have known the plaintiff, Mr. Davies, some ten or twelve years, or perhaps more. I remember his coming home from Barbice. He consulted me about settling in London. I advised him to erect a chapel for himself. I supported the erection of the chapel in the *Banner*, and in two magazines of which I was also the editor. The foundation of the chapel was laid in October, 1850, and it was opened in June, 1851. I became a member of the Morley committee at the request of Mr. Davies, who earnestly requested me to become so. I concurred in the resolution adopted by that committee. I was acquainted with Mr. Foreman's family. He consulted me confidentially. Mr. Davies never in his life showed me a letter from Mr. Foreman. I did not hear of Mr. Foreman in connexion with the Greenwich letter until long after the production of that letter. I did not hear of it for a considerable time after the sitting of Morley's committee. I am satisfied it was not mentioned there. I was the chairman of the Congregational Board of Ministers in June, 1852. Mr. Davies did not complain of that board until after its decision was given. Dr. Tidman was not the author of any of the articles in the *Banner*. The "Defence of the Innocent" was sent to me to review. It had been circulated far and wide. I discovered it was becoming very prejudicial to the missionary cause.

Cross-examined by Mr. Barnard: I put down my name spontaneously for a two-guinea subscription to the Calcedonian Chapel. I am glad to say I did not pay it. I would but for what happened. I have no recollection that letters from Mr. Foreman to Mr. Davies were produced before the Morley committee. Such letters may have been produced in my absence, perhaps, but I don't think they were. I never saw any letters from Mr. Foreman to Mr. Davies before the last trial.

Serjeant Wilkins handed the witness a receipt, and asked if it was not in his handwriting; but it proved to be a receipt given by Mr. Pratt for his private subscription.

Mr. Serjeant Wilkins proceeded to sum up the evidence given on the part of the defendant, first of all noticing, in some detail, the more remarkable of the instances in which Mr. Davies had been directly contradicted by several of the witnesses—which he alleged to be seventy-three in number. Among these was Mr. Davies's statement that he received his directions to go to Wellingborough and other places, as a deputation from the Missionary Society, from Mr. Stacey, "with Bradshaw in his hand." Mr. Stacey swore that he gave Mr. Davies no such directions, and that, on the contrary, Mr. Davies received them from Mr. Arundel, the home secretary at the Mission-house, by letter, which was sent to Mr. Davies, by post, so early as the week before he started. Again, there was the evidence of Mr. Davies concerning Wellingborough, contradicted as it was by that of Mr. Keep, Mrs. Keep, Ann Woodin (their servant), Mrs. Drayton, John Smith, and others. He had not the slightest doubt that the evidence of Mr. Davies on that point was sheer unmitigated falsehood. Mr. Davies had also said that it could not be true that he wrote any letters from Wellingborough, or asked for writing materials at Mrs. Keep's, since he always carried writing materials with him. This he (Mr. Serjeant Wilkins) regarded as a proof that he did write letters at Wellingborough, for if he had his writing materials with him, what could there have been to hinder him from writing when alone?

The learned serjeant continued to comment, on Thursday, upon the evidence at considerable length, but much of his address was necessarily a repetition of his opening statement of the defendant's case. At the conclusion of his address the court adjourned until to-morrow, when Mr. Ballantine will reply on the part of the plaintiff.

MEETINGS ON THE WAR.

Two public meetings have been held during the past week to consider the conduct of the war and the conditions of peace.

The people of Newcastle were conveyed by their Mayor on requisition. Letters were read from Mr. Headlam, M.P.; Mr. Layard, M.P.; W. Digby Seymour, Recorder of Newcastle, apologising for their absence. Mr. Layard expressed regret that months ago the country had not been roused to protest against the present ruinous policy, and hoped to have the pleasure at a future period to visit Newcastle. A letter from General Mikoslawski, offering an advance guard of 5,000 Poles, and estimating the number of Poles in the armies of the Czar at 300,000, was also read, and loudly cheered. Mr. W. Cook moved:—

That this meeting condemn and repudiate the propositions of the Vienna conference, as calculated to patch up a false and shameful peace, ruinous to Turkey, advantageous to Russia, injurious to Europe, and humiliating to Great Britain; and this meeting is of opinion, that no peace should be concluded except on conditions which will leave Turkey free and untrammelled by any foreign protectorate—restore Poland to the rank of an independent state—and by such means restrain the dangerous power of Russia, and put an end to the calamitous inroads of Muscovite aggression.

Mr. Julian Harnay seconded, and Mr. Mickle supported the resolution, which was carried unanimously. Mr. George Crawshaw next addressed the meeting. He said the great quality now required by this country was presence of mind. Our army was lost in the Crimea, and our honour was lost at Vienna. If there was one thing more than another in which the people of this country were agreed, it was distrust of Austria. (Applause.) He happened to be in the House of Lords

at the opening of the session, when he heard Lord Derby express that feeling. The noble lord said he was not sure that Austria had not been the cause of our want of success in this war. (Hear.) The speech of Lord Derby on that occasion threw the Government into confusion. The Duke of Argyll replied to the noble lord. He said, "Such language will not be tolerated in this House; such is the language we are accustomed to hear from the platforms in this country." (Hear.) The country must insist, not merely upon an inquiry into the military management of the present Ministry, but also into their diplomacy. Mr. Crawshaw concluded by moving,—

That the fatal misdirection of the war, the disgraceful Foreign Enlistment Bill, the nefarious alliance with Austria, the diplomatic conspiracy to effect a shameful peace, the infamous mismanagement, which has resulted in the destruction of the greater portion of the British army in the Crimea, and now threatens the sacrifice of the remainder of that noble band of heroes, so worthy their country's gratitude and admiration—these facts considered, this meeting is of opinion, that further tolerance of the present Administration would be fatal to the country and a crime on the part of the British people; therefore, this meeting determines to petition the Queen to dismiss, and the Parliament to impeach, the incompetent and unworthy Ministers who have brought shame and sorrow upon this country.

Mr. Charles Atwood moved an address to the Queen founded upon the foregoing resolutions, which was seconded by Mr. Crawshaw, and carried.

A meeting of the inhabitants of Finsbury was held on Wednesday evening, at the Music Hall, Store-street. Notwithstanding the severity of the weather there was a numerous attendance. In the absence of Mr. Duncombe, M.P., who had engaged to preside, Mr. Elt was called to the chair. The following was the principal resolution:—

That this meeting of the inhabitants of the borough of Finsbury expresses its indignation at the misdirection of the war with Russia; and demands, at the hands of Parliament, an inquiry as strict and uncompromising as their support of Government has been liberal and confiding. That this meeting also expresses its opinion, that there will be no safety for the interests of this nation, or of Europe at large, without the enforcement of Ministerial responsibility, by the abolition of secrecy in diplomacy, and the curtailment of aristocratic influence over the civil and military establishments. That remembering the repeated declarations of Lord John Russell and other Ministers, to the effect that the war was undertaken in the cause of European freedom, this meeting declares that the conclusion of peace on the basis of the four points will prove the war to have been a delusion and a fraud.

Mr. Washington Wilks was the first speaker. After describing the disasters of the war, he insisted upon the undivided responsibility of the late Ministry. Aberdeen and Russell, Palmerston and Newcastle, had sinned together, and together they should be punished by political annihilation—a sentiment which the meeting vehemently applauded. He also pointed out the misdirection of the war, in consequence of the Ministerial liaison with Austria. Dr. Eppe dwelt, in a speech of caustic humour, on the mischiefs of secret diplomacy and aristocratic influence. An amendment in favour of the People's Charter was moved and seconded,—but obtained only two or three supporters. The original resolution, supported by Mr. Shaen and Mr. Alfred Walker, was carried. Mr. Collett moved and Mr. G. Moore seconded:—"That the foregoing resolution be embodied in a petition to Parliament, signed by the chairman; and that the meeting urgently recommends to the country at large, the adoption of a similar petition at parochial and other meetings;"—which was also carried unanimously.

STATE OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

The Registrar-General's return for the quarter ending 31st December, has just been issued. The general aspect of the returns is unfavourable. The marriages, though above the average, were proportionately fewer than the numbers in the corresponding seasons of the four previous years. The births are below, the deaths above, the average. Cholera, which prevailed epidemically in the summer, when it subsided, left the population unhealthy; and while the country suffered, the towns have experienced an unusually high rate of mortality. 38,150 marriages were celebrated in the three months that ended on September 30th, 1854; or 76,300 persons were married; which is at the annual rate of 812 marriages to every 100,000 persons in the population. The average of the quarter for the preceding ten years was 804. The marriages declined in every division except the Northern, and in Wales and Monmouthshire; in Lancashire and the West Riding of Yorkshire the decrease was considerable. 146,459 births were registered in the quarter that ended on December 31st; and the number slightly exceeds the numbers in the corresponding quarter of 1853; but the rate is less than the average in the proportion of 3.111 to 3.143 births per cent. per annum on the population. The births that were registered during the year 1854 amount to 634,506, and exceed by 22,165 the births during the year 1853. The rate of births was 3.408 per cent.; which exceeds the average by 0.095, but is less than the rate of 1851 and 1852. The deaths in the three months Oct., Nov., and Dec., amounted to 109,664; and the annual rate of mortality in the quarter was 2.320 per cent., which is 137 above the average. The deaths in the year were 438,239; and the annual rate of mortality was 2.355 per cent., or .088 above the average. The births in the quarter exceed the deaths, and leave a balance of 36,795 in the population: but, after subtracting 20,762 English emigrants, 15,988 remain in excess, to which, however, a certain proportion of Irish and Scottish immigrants into England must be added. Sixty-one thousand deaths in England during the year 1854 are referable to the imperfect operation of the sanitary organisation of our towns.

The Registrar-General calls attention to the fact, that while the name, age, rank, or profession, place, time, and cause of death of every man, woman, or child that dies at home are preserved in the registers, the names of the men who uphold in arms the cause and the

same of their country abroad, find no place in these records.

In these returns there is an interesting paragraph, bearing upon the mortality of our Crimean army. The annual mortality of men in civil life at home, is at the rate of 9 in 1,000, but the mortality of the troops at home probably exceeds 15 per 1,000; and the mortality of the troops abroad, and chiefly in the tropical climates, is such, that the mortality of the whole army is said to be at the rate of 30 in 1,000 in time of peace. At these rates, 3,290 officers and soldiers die abroad annually, of whom about 2,193 belong to England. In the time of war, the deaths in the army abroad are raised in two ways; by the augmentation of the forces, and the increased rates of mortality from wounds and from the diseases that have hitherto been incidental to warfare in the field. Thus the mean strength of the British force, officers and men, in the Peninsula, was 66,372; the deaths during the 41 months that ended May 25th, 1854, were 35,525, of which only 9,948 happened in battle or as the consequence of wounds. 225 per 1,000 of the 61,511 men were, on an average, upon the sick list, and their annual mortality was at the rate of 161 per 1,000. To the ordinary deaths of officers and soldiers abroad in 1854 must be added the excess of deaths in the war, which have been caused partly by the extension of the same epidemic of cholera that has prevailed in England, and partly by diarrhoea, dysentery, and other diseases that like cholera, are made fatal by lying on the ground; by the use of impure water, by dirt and damp, by privation, and by the substitution of salt pork, rum, and biscuits, for the fresh meat, vegetables, &c., that officers and men live on at home. The deaths in an average year among 64,000 men in the town and country population of England at the same ages as the men in the army is 486, or nearly 41 monthly; and about 972 are constantly sick. All the deaths and sickness in excess of these numbers, except the deaths and wounds from battle, are referable to conditions that, in the present state of engineering, chemical, and medical science, may be removed to a considerable extent in ordinary climates, even in the field and in the presence of an enemy.

BILLS BEFORE PARLIAMENT.

The new bill, "To Consolidate and Amend the Nuisances Removal and Diseases Prevention Acts of 1848 and 1849," repeals the existing acts. The execution of the act is to be entrusted to the local authorities; and the nuisances "abatable" include all filthy, unwholesome, or dilapidated houses and premises; all foul or offensive pools, gutters, ditches, privies, cesspools, drains, and ashpits, &c.; all animals "so kept as to be injurious to health," and all decaying or offensive accumulations or deposits. An inspector of nuisances, with a salary, is to be appointed by the local authorities. Clauses 14 to 20 provide for the removal of nuisances in the regular legal course—the penalties of contravention of orders to abate nuisances being 10s. per diem, and 20s. for "infringement" of such orders. Clauses 21 to 33 provide for the cleansing of ditches by the surveyors of highways, the covering of open ditches, the prevention of the sale of tainted meat, poultry, and fish, and the abatement of nuisances from offensive trades or process; such as candle-houses, melting-houses, slaughter-houses, and bone-houses, under a penalty of £5 per diem. Clause 34 empowers the Privy Council to issue orders from time to time directing the provisions for the prevention of diseases to be put in force in England, or any part thereof, for six months or less; and clause 35 empowers the General Board of Health to carry out such orders, by issuing regulations for the burial of the dead, for house-to-house visitations, and for the dispensing of medicines and the supply of medical aid to persons afflicted by or threatened with zymotic diseases. While such orders in council are in force in any place, the local authorities will have the power of bringing overcrowded (and consequently unhealthy) houses under the provisions of the "Common Lodging-house Act" of 1851. Penalties may be levied on local authorities neglecting their duties under this act. The expenses of the execution of this act are to be defrayed out of borough rates, general district rates, "local improvement act" rates, or highway rates; and, if there be no such rates or funds, then out of the rates applicable to the relief of the poor. The constabulary and police force in their respective jurisdictions are required to aid in executing this act. Clause 61 obviates the construction of anything in this act contained to impair any power of abating nuisances at common law.

A bill has been introduced by Mr. Sotherton, Mr. Bonham Carter, and Mr. Adderley to consolidate and amend the law relating to friendly societies. It repeals all former statutes (providing, however, for the continuance of societies existing under former acts, and the rules thereof). Three commissioners are to be appointed by Her Majesty for the carrying of the act into execution, who are empowered to receive applications and to authorize the formation and regulation of future or existing societies. Three registrars (for England, Ireland, and Scotland) are also to be appointed for the purposes of the act. The purposes of friendly societies, to be formed hereafter, will include the securing of payments on death, relief in sickness, fire insurance, the investment of savings, and the payment of emigration expenses, &c. A special clause provides that no money shall be paid on the death of a child without a copy of the entry of the registrar of births and deaths, and a proper certificate of the cause of death. The bill contains fifty-five clauses.

GENERAL SIR DE LACY EVANS.

The deputation of Westminster electors appointed to present an address to Sir De Lacy Evans, waited

upon him at his residence in Bryanstone-square, on Thursday. Sir John Shelley and Mr. Prout were the spokesmen of the party. The address recited the recent gallant services of General Evans, and expressed the great admiration felt by his constituents for his military services. Sir De Lacy replied with much feeling. A compliment more grateful to him, he said, he could not receive, coming as it did from men who supported him through good report and evil report for nearly a quarter of a century; and who had twice given him leave to absent himself from his duties in Parliament. Various powerful persons had pronounced his services in Spain dishonourable, but the constituency of Westminster had by a majority of 1,100 pronounced them honourable. They were not merely exemplifying their kindness to him, but to his comrades. "I do not hesitate to say, there is no instance on record of a young and inexperienced army that have shown greater bravery and devotion to their country than that which landed some few months since in the Crimea. I may be permitted to say that of my comrades; but it would be presumptuous in me to attribute more than a very small share to myself." Nothing in past times can equal the fine, generous, and patriotic expression of feeling that has prevailed in the country on this occasion; and, with the aid of the French, he had no apprehensions for the result. "Deeply sorry I am that many distresses may be endured and many losses sustained by a prolongation of this struggle; but it is quite possible—probably it is, but the truth—and in my opinion it is our duty and our policy that we should look to a prolonged contest. This is one of those great epochs of which we read in history, where a great power endeavours to master and put down the liberties of other nations; and it is indispensable to those who value liberty, national independence, and the progress of human society, that the contest should be pursued—whatever the sacrifice may be—to a victorious end."

CONVOCATION.

The two Houses met yesterday pursuant to adjournment; the bishops in the Bounty-office, Dean's-yard, and the clergy in the Jerusalem-chamber, Westminster Abbey. In the Upper House there were present besides the Primate many of the bishops. The report of the committee appointed to consider the propriety of making alterations in the service of the Church was read by the archbishop. (This report was published in all the papers in July last.) The Bishop of London suggested that it would be premature to adopt, or even to discuss, the topics embraced by that report, until they had first addressed the Queen and obtained her Majesty's permission to deliberate on the subject. The Bishop of Exeter observed that no royal licence was required, unless the subject was discussed with a view to the making of canons. The Archbishop said that they were at liberty to discuss the suggestions of the report, but not to promulgate any conclusions for the government of the Church.

A discussion was then commenced on the first recommendation of the report, to the effect that some modification of the Church's rules was desirable. The Bishop of Exeter moved a resolution expressing the opinion—

That some modification of the Church's rules is desirable, to enable her adequately to minister to the spiritual necessities of the land, and that those modifications may be most properly considered as in regard to her services.

The Bishop of Oxford seconded this resolution, which was unanimously agreed to.

The Archbishop suggested that the first practical question raised by the report was, as to the division of the morning service. The Bishop of London and Bishop of Oxford thought they had better not discuss details till some practical result would come of them. Eventually the following resolution was agreed to by all but the Bishop of Exeter, who wished to pledge the Convocation to keep intact the Book of Common Prayer:—

That we consider that in any alteration of the Services of the Church, it should be a fundamental principle that the Book of Common Prayer should be maintained entire and unaltered, except so far as shall concern the rubrics thereof, the division of the present, or the formation of new services by recombinations of the Prayers, with such alterations in the Psalter and Table of Lessons as may be thought fit.

Subsequently a committee of prelates was appointed to consider the heads of an address to the Queen for permission to act on the above resolution. The Lower House was then summoned, and the resolutions which had been agreed to communicated, after which the Convocation adjourned to Thursday next.

The Lower House was presided over by the Dean of Ely as Prolocutor. The Hon. and Rev. Canon Villiers and Dr. McCaul enforced the necessity of adjourning under the present circumstances of the Government, but the Prolocutor decided otherwise. Archdeacon Denison created some disturbance by his attempts to enforce his views upon the Assembly, and eventually it was decided by 36 to 33 that his statement of his position should not be received. The Archdeacon of Worcester would on some future occasion move that the House as at present constituted had not the confidence of the Church, and until the Convocation was altered, he did not think it was in a fit state to discuss such matters. At this stage a message from the Upper House was announced, and the Prolocutor and the Assessors left for the purpose of attending upon their lordships. On their return the Prolocutor read a series of resolutions which had been adopted in the Upper House. The resolutions which had been brought down were then laid before the House, which immediately afterwards adjourned.

The fishermen of Arbroath have joined the Temperance Society en masse. It is currently reported, that the first who breaks his pledge will be subjected by his comrades to a species of Lynch law, and treated to a "guid launch in the harbour."

Foreign and Colonial News.

ITALY.

A fulmination from Rome against the King of Piedmont is shortly expected. The *Daily News* correspondent at Rome, under date Jan. 27, says that on the 22nd the Pope delivered an harangue to the Sacred College, which has since been printed and delivered to the Cardinals. The document is said to expose lengthily the *pros* and *cons* of the disagreement, and corroborate the Papal view of the question by frequent extracts from the diplomatic correspondence between the two courts. It is, in fact, a *catalogue raisonné* of griefs, accompanied by strong expressions of indignation against the depredators who would now fain despoil the church. If the Minister Cavour is not touched by this remonstrance, we may expect to see the Pope proceed to the regular steps of *monitorio*, interdict, and excommunication. The same writer says that this harangue is not to be considered a direct and unceremonious excommunication. That tremendous anathema is usually preceded by a warning forerunner, termed a *monitorio*, giving notice, that if the measures complained of by the Holy See are persisted in, excommunication will follow. The usual period granted for repentance and amendment is three weeks. But it appears that the harangue of the 22nd is not even to be considered a *monitorio*, but rather as a preparatory and solemn exhortation to the King, Parliament, and people of Piedmont, to turn from the evil of their ways, and to bridle the financial yearnings which point in the direction of broad church lands.

The *Times* Turin correspondent says:—"It is said that the Government has received the long-threatened admonitory letter from the Pope on the subject of the Convent Suppression Bill. Should the Government allow the letter to be published, it would most likely have the effect of rousing the feeling of the country still more than it is at present against the assumption of central power at Rome over the affairs of their national church."

The reports of numerous arrests in the Lombard provinces have been amply confirmed by travellers thence. At Milan it is said that about ninety persons had been thrown into gaol—some of them *employes* in Government and public offices, others law students and lawyers' clerks, but all of the middle classes. There are several versions of the cause of these arrests. Some say the order came from Vienna, and that they are the result of a discovered plot to burn the Scala Theatre, and murder the Austrian officers in the consequent confusion; others assert that they are merely a continuation of the famous Mantua prosecution for holding notes issued by the Republic; and others that the persons arrested have been sold to the police by an Italian, who had lately been to London and Paris, where he discovered, from the leaders of the emigration, the names of those with whom they corresponded in Lombardy, and that on his return he denounced his victims for a certain sum. Which may be the true account, or if any be, it is at present impossible to fathom. One thing alone is certain—that in all the large towns of Lombardy the police have been extraordinarily active in perquisitions and arrests.

The *Corriere Mercantile* quotes letters from Florence of the 24th, stating that several arrests have taken place there in consequence of the discovery of a plot for effecting a rising in Tuscany. Arrests had also taken place at Leghorn, on account of the sale of some of Mazzini's bonds.

SPAIN.

The Pope's Nuncio has had conference with the Minister of Foreign Affairs on the sale of the property of the Church, and the Minister is said to have assured him that the Government does not intend to injure the interests of the clergy. Public attention continues to be occupied with the financial question. The property of the clergy not sold amounts to 625 millions of francs.

MM. Sevillano and Madoz, at the sitting of the Cortes on the 30th January, gave an account of the proceeding connected with the loan of 40 million reals. M. Madoz, while declaring that the finances were in a critical state, declared that he nevertheless hoped to triumph over all difficulties, with the help of the Cortes and all good citizens.

The Governor of Madrid has published a proclamation, in which he declares that the municipality has given employment to 40,000 workmen, and that from want of funds it is unable to employ more. Generals Calonge, Quesada, and Rosales, have been ordered to leave the capital.

Telegraphic despatches from Paris inform the Government, that the Carlists contemplate making an irruption into Spain, by Catalonia and Navarre at the same time, with the pretender and Cabrera at the head of the bands which are to invade the former province, and Elio of those that are to enter the latter.

UNITED STATES.

In the United States Senate a message had been received from the President, urging the adoption of measures to suppress the hostilities of the Indians along the overland route to California, and submitted to the Military Committee, who would report a bill without delay, organizing a force of 3,000 mounted men. A bill, remitting penalties incurred by emigrant ships in certain cases, has been passed. The third reading of the Pacific Railroad Bill had passed by a large majority. An ineffectual effort to procure a resolution providing for an expedition to search for Dr. Kane had been made.

Martin Kossta, whose capture in the East threatened to bring the Old World and the New to loggerheads, has since been taken prisoner in America, and, this time, with less hope of release. A widow in Chicago, one Mrs. Lucinda M'Fall, got hold of Martin, and he is now her wedded slave for life.

On the 9th ult., Mr. Gardner was inaugurated as Governor of Massachusetts; and as he was indebted for his elevation to the "Know-nothing ticket," so his address on the occasion was mainly devoted to an enunciation of the principles of that party. The *New York Daily Times* furnishes us with the following outline of the principles laid down in Mr. Gardner's speech:—

To dispel from popular use every foreign language; to print all public documents in the English tongue alone; to ordain that all schools aided by the State shall use the same language; to disband military companies founded on and developing exclusive foreign sympathies; to discourage imported political demagogues, the broken-down leaders of Insular Agrarianism or Continental Red Republicanism, whose trade here is to put themselves at the head of their deluded countrymen, to organize prejudice, to vitalize foreign feeling and morbid passion, and then to sell themselves to the highest partisan bidder; to purify and ennoble the elective franchise; to adopt a careful guarded check-list throughout the nation; to cultivate a living and energetic nationality; to develop a high and vital patriotism; to Americanize America; to retain the Bible in our common schools; to keep entire the separation of the Church and State; to nationalize before we naturalize, and to educate before either; to guard against citizenship becoming cheap,—these constitute a work transcending the ordinary platform of party, and ranking with the great movements that originally founded nations.

We learn from Washington that Mr. Soule has resigned the Spanish mission, and the Hon. John C. Breckenridge, of Kentucky, has been nominated and confirmed to fill the vacancy.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

The Queen of Naples was safely delivered of a princess on the 21st ult.

The Grand Duke of Tuscany has, by a decree of the 28th ult., ordered a levy of 2,000 men.

There has been a shock of earthquake in New Hampshire and Vermont.

The Committee of the Wurtemberg Chamber has just voted, by a large majority, a bill for increasing the strength of the army.

The Prince de Canino has resolved to take orders, in the expectation of becoming a cardinal, and perhaps of attaining higher honours.

Cardinal Wiseman, and two other Roman Catholic Prelates, returning from Rome to England, have been received by the Emperor Napoleon at the Tuilleries.

The recent statement of the circulation of the Scriptures, under the authority of the Emperor of the French, has been denied on authority.

Advices from Havannah to the 12th, confirm the report of the recall of Captain-General Concha. General Zabala was mentioned as his successor.

The Duke of Genoa is better; but his health will be a source of anxiety to the Royal Family for some considerable time.

A Subscription is opened at Melbourne for a testimonial to Mrs. Chisholm, and there is a demand for a vote of money by the Legislature to add to it.

The Emperor of Austria has decided upon abolishing that barbarous punishment commonly called "running the gauntlet," the usual result of which was the death or maiming for life of the unhappy offender.

The Queen of Spain has conferred upon Mr. George Mould, railway contractor, the Order of Charles III., as a recognition of his enterprise in initiating the railway system in that country.

The Count and Countess de Chambord, who are now in Venice, have opened their magnificent saloons, but they have fewer French Legitimists among their guests than in former years.

The Poles residing at Lyons caused a funeral mass to be celebrated on Saturday, in the cathedral of that city, to the memory of the late Lord Dudley Stuart.

The *Madrid Gazette* remarks that, for the first time, the Imperial Almanack of St. Petersburg, for 1855, mentions "Queen Maria Isabel Luisa" among the reigning sovereigns of Europe.

There is great suffering in India from the high price of rice. At Madras it has led to rioting, only quelled by military force, after considerable damage had been done. In Ceylon mothers have sold their infants to obtain the means of buying food.

The *Moniteur* publishes an Imperial letter to M. Magne, hitherto Minister of Agriculture, Commerce, and Public Works, appointing him Minister of Finance, in the room of M. Bineau, who retires on account of ill health.

The Panama Railroad, connecting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, which has hitherto attracted but little notice in England, is now completed, and at this date the trains are probably running through from sea to sea.

We are doing something here for the reclamation of the young criminal, but California is not a whit behind us. The Board of Supervisors of San Francisco county have ordered the purchase of land and erection of "a house of refuge for juvenile delinquents," at an expense of 70,000 dollars.

The beautiful bay of Kiel, where a month or two ago the British Baltic fleet presented such an imposing appearance, is covered by a dense sheet of ice, which extends in one unbroken field out to sea as far as the eye can reach from the heights above the fortress of Frederick's Ort.

A letter from Frankfort announces the arrest of several members of a very mysterious religious sect. They were meeting during the night in the open fields in the vicinity of the town, wearing high caps adorned with horse-tails on their heads, and carrying in their hands long sticks surmounted with a many-coloured paper lantern.

There has been a rather serious affair between the British troops stationed at Christianburg Castle, on the west coast of Africa, and the natives of the town, who showed signs of rebellion. The batteries of the

castle fired on the town, and the fire was returned. We lost one corporal and three privates killed, and had twenty-four men wounded. Peace was finally restored.

Accounts from Hamburg of the 30th January mention the arrival of Jenny Lind-Goldschmidt, who, with her husband, gave a concert the night before at the Apollo Saloon, which was crowded to suffocation. A marked difference in her voice was, however, perceptible between now and those palmy days when she earned for herself the flattering epithet of "the Swedish Nightingale."

The reactionary journals in Paris seize upon what is now taking place in England to attack the constitutional regime, and to bring a free press into disrepute. The *Univers* especially points to France, where the tribune and press are equally silent, as forming a happy contrast with our own country. The *Univers* even goes so far as to express a hope, that the abuses committed by correspondents in the Crimea will induce the Parliament to alter the system, and hints that the French Government, the welfare of whose armies is also compromised by imprudent revelations, should insist on something being done.

Court, Personal, and Official News.

The movements of the Court have been intimately connected with the Ministerial crisis caused by the hostile vote of the House of Commons. On Tuesday afternoon, the Earl of Aberdeen, after a meeting of the Cabinet Council, waited upon the Queen at Windsor Castle. Next morning, her Majesty and Prince Albert came to town, and arrived at Buckingham Palace soon after eleven. Shortly afterwards the Earl of Derby had an audience of the Queen; and in the afternoon her Majesty and the Prince Consort returned to Windsor. On Thursday morning the Earl of Derby arrived there from London, and had an audience. In the evening, at her Majesty's command, the Marquis of Lansdowne arrived, and remained at the Castle till Friday morning. Her Majesty returned to Buckingham Palace on Friday, and the Marquis of Lansdowne had an audience. While her Majesty was in town on Wednesday, the Duke of Cambridge visited the Queen. On Saturday, the Duke again visited her Majesty at Buckingham Palace. The Queen and Prince returned to Windsor in the evening. During the day Viscount Palmerston and Lord Clarendon had an audience of the Queen. Lord John Russell had two audiences.

In September of last year, the wife of a mason, named James Scott, residing in William-street, Tradeston, Glasgow, was safely delivered of triplets,—all girls,—which addition to an already numerous family of eight, straitening still more their hitherto indigent circumstances, were further augmented by the husband being prevented from working owing to the inclemency of the weather. In this condition Mrs. Scott penned a letter to the Queen, detailing her case, and craving for assistance. Her Majesty, a short time since, caused inquiries to be made as to the truth of the woman's story, which having been confirmed, after due investigation by Mr. Kirkwood, inspector of Govan parish, the Queen has forwarded £5 for the behoof of the family.—*Witness*.

The Queen has appointed Sir Charles Hotham, now Lieutenant-Governor of Victoria, Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief over that colony.

The Solicitor-General for Scotland, Mr. Thomas Mackenzie, will, we have reason to believe, succeed to the vacant seat on the Scotch bench, caused by the death of Lord Robertson.—*Globe*.

The Duke of Cambridge landed at Dover on Tuesday: he was received by the civil and military authorities, and an address was presented to him. The same evening he arrived in London.

The *Tipperary Free Press* states (what is very likely) that Mr. Carden's health has been seriously impaired by the imprisonment which he has already undergone for the attempted abduction of Miss Arbuthnot.

The Earl of Lincoln, eldest son of the Duke of Newcastle, attained his majority on Thursday, the 25th ult.

General Lord Seaton succeeds to the command of the army in Ireland, vacated by Sir E. Blakeney.

Sir J. Graham is suffering from a painful disease, which has rendered a surgical operation necessary. The operation was successfully performed by Sir Benjamin Brodie, and it is hoped that the right hon. baronet will soon be convalescent.—*Post*.

Admiral Dundas arrived at Dover from Calais on Monday.

On Thursday last, Donald Nicoll, Esq., was entertained by his supporters at Frome at a public dinner. Mr. Nicoll had been previously most enthusiastically received at the railway station by a large concourse of people, who, headed by a band of music, escorted him into the town. After the dinner a public meeting was held, at which resolutions were passed thanking Mr. Nicoll for the manner in which he enabled them to place their political opinions on record at the late election, and pledging the meeting to support Mr. Nicoll's claims whenever a vacancy should occur in the representation.

General Cannon (Behram Pasha) has arrived at Morley's Hotel, from the Crimea.

Among those who arrived at Southampton on Monday evening, was the Harbinger, is Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Thomas Troubridge, of the 7th Fusiliers, one of the most distinguished heroes of Inkermann.

The Metropolitan Railway Company has at length been announced. The capital required is £1,000,000, with borrowing powers for forming a line of railway under the surface of the ground, connecting the Great Western with the North Western and Great Northern, and terminating at the General Post-office in St. Martin's-le-Grand.

Miscellaneous News.

The prisoner Baranelli, committed on the Coroner's warrant, was arraigned at the Old Bailey on Wednesday; but the trial, on the application of the counsel for the Crown, was postponed till next sessions.

The Directors of the Bank of England, on Thursday last, passed a resolution to give each clerk in their establishment an immediate bonus of ten per cent. upon his salary, as compensation for the double income-tax.

It is reported that Lord Palmerston disapproves of some of the regulations proposed by the City authorities for the new market at Copenhagen-fields; and especially that he prefers Tuesday to Monday for the chief market-day.

It is gratifying to observe in the return for punishments in the navy of 199 ships of war, from January to June, 1855, lately published by order of the House of Commons, that in eighty-four ships not a single lash was inflicted during that period.

The Mercury steamship from Bordeaux to London, was run down in the British Channel, on the 11th ult. The whole of its crew and passengers were saved. The Mercury was an iron-built steamer, between 400 and 500 tons burden. She was laden with a general cargo.

The Court of Queen's Bench in Dublin has refused to make absolute a conditional order obtained by the Poor-law Commissioners to compel the guardians of the Uxlingford Union to register a certain pauper infant as a Protestant, the religion of his parents being unknown. The order was refused on the ground, that the commissioners had not adopted the proper mode of proceeding.

The number of visitors to the Tower of London for the year ending February 1, 1854, was 52,075; and the money paid, £1,301 17s. 6d. The visitors in 1853 to the British Museum were 661,113; the readers, 67,794. At Hampton Court the number of visitors in 1853 was 180,733. At Kew Gardens, the visitors in 1853 were, on week days, 210,741; on Sundays, 120,469; total, 331,210.

The Liverpool brokers have repeated their snow-ball rioting of last year. They began the amusement in the Exchange, and the combat soon became very animated, to the destruction of windows and hats. The police brought fire-engines to play on the snow and rioters; but were fairly beaten off the field. The remonstrances and threats of the Mayor were more successful in quelling the disturbance.

At a public dinner in Dunfermline, on Friday last, where the health of Her Majesty's Ministers was drunk, with the curious confession that the party did not know who they were, Lord Elgin said:—"I think I am in duty bound to show you how I have been engaged during my absence, in what school I have been studying, and how far the discipline to which I have been subjected is likely to make me a proper and useful servant among yourselves." This is a new version of the old Edinburgh cry—"Wha wants me?"

The law of partnership was the subject of discussion at the meeting of the Law Amendment Society on Monday; Lord Brougham occupying the chair. Mr. D. Power opened the proceedings by discussing at some length on the question of limited liability in partnership. He concluded by moving a series of resolutions for carrying out that object, as recommended by the committee. Mr. F. Hill seconded the resolutions. Considerable discussion then took place on the resolutions, in which the Chairman, Mr. Commissioner Fane, Mr. Field, Mr. Serjeant Manning, Mr. Webster, and other gentlemen took part, and the further consideration of the subject was adjourned until the next meeting.

The heavy snow-storm of last week, which interrupted the traffic on many railways and delayed the mails, has been succeeded by a decided thaw. Rain fell in London on Friday night and froze immediately afterwards, making walking very dangerous. Early in the morning, however, a decided thaw set in, leaving the streets in a most filthy state. The weather has since been much milder. The fall of snow was very heavy in Ireland. The north of Scotland was visited with a heavy fall of snow last week, but there being no wind the railways were all kept open. So intense was the frost on Friday, that the mercury fell 10 degrees below the freezing point.

Mrs. Bacon, an aged widow lady, has been murdered in her house at Rochester. The alarm was given by her servant, a girl of nineteen, who appeared at the street-door at mid-day with her throat cut: she was taken to the hospital. The body of Mrs. Bacon was found in an upper room; the head was crushed, and there were gashes on the forehead. From the marks of blood it was evident that the victim had been attacked in the cellar, and then dragged up-stairs. Who was the assassin? The girl told a tale about "two dustmen" killing her mistress; but Mrs. Bacon's keys were found in the servant's room, and she had concealed on her some of her mistress's jewellery. A bloody hatchet and knife were found, and a pail of water, which had been used to wash blood from something. The girl is not expected to survive.

The annual meeting of the Bolton Olive Leaf Circle, was held in Bolton on Thursday evening last. The Temperance Hall was crowded with a highly respectable auditory. Edmund Ashworth, Esq., of Egerton Hall, presided. Able speeches, strongly condemnatory of the present war, were delivered by the Mayor (P. R. Arrowsmith, Esq.); Joseph Crook, Esq., M.P. for the borough; George Thompson, Esq. (Editor of the *Empire*); Thomas Thomasson, Esq.; the Rev. Mr. Davison (Independent Minister); Mr. James Parkinson; and a working man who spoke from the body of the meeting. The proceedings (which were of a highly interesting character) closed with the adoption of a petition in favour of peace, and the passing of a vote of thanks to Mr. George Thompson and the chairman.

Literature.

The Acts of the Apostles; or, The History of the Church in the Apostolic Age. By M. BAUMGARTEN, Doctor of Philosophy and Theology, and Professor in the University of Rostock. Translated from the German, by the Rev. A. J. W. MORRISON. 3 vols. Edinburgh: T. and T. Clark.

In the Introduction to this work (which contains, not the usual matter comprised under that head, as to authorship, authenticity, &c., but simply a statement of the writer's purposes and objects), it is remarked, that Chrysostom's complaint of the neglect of the Acts of the Apostles has held good down to our days; so that notwithstanding the many special inquiries which have elucidated details and cleared up the chronology, little has been done for the exposition of the plan and object of the work. "A clear and definite insight into the structure and composition of this book," is the confessed want of theological science. "A perception of the internal unity of this history" has never yet been vouchsafed to interpreters; and "modern times have become sensible of this need."

Some writers have declared, not only that they have failed to discover the purpose of the Acts of the Apostles, but that it is consistent with a merely historical book to have none. Others have theorized as to "the missing purpose," and have set up views which vitiate, or even deny, the historical value of the work. Baumgarten, however, maintains, against both the one and the other, that it is beneath the dignity of a canonical book to be without a purpose; and that it possesses a oneness of design, which proceeds from the oneness of that spiritual impulse which at first moved its author to write, and while writing, accompanied him throughout his task. He attempts, therefore, to rescue it from the fragmentary handling which it has hitherto been exposed to; and assuming the strict historical character of the narratives from the beginning to the end of the Acts of the Apostles, undertakes to point out a unity of connexion between all its parts. He is not afraid of incurring the charge of falling into the very extremes of all previous historical views of the Acts. To him it seems that, if—"the first impression which the works of Homer or Shakspeare make upon us is that of a wild luxuriance of nature; and yet commentators have not found a limit to the discovery of leading thoughts pervading and running through the whole;" it may well be asked—"are we to think less than this of the Holy Ghost, who prepares and sanctifies for himself his human instruments for the production of the Scriptures, which in all ages of the Church are to lend to every holy thought, and to every spiritual impulse, the support of a divine certainty?"

Baumgarten, first of all, enters minutely and carefully into an examination of the introductory verses of the Acts; and from them establishes the connexion of this book with the Gospel, and opens out the intention of the sacred writer, to present "the Ascended Jesus as the active subject of his history." He does not, however, regard the section extending down to the account of the descent of the Holy Ghost, as the proper beginning of the intended historical narrative;—"the starting point of the new series of developments was to be the receiving of the Holy Spirit."

The author's fundamental positions—not formally propounded, but lying at the base of his treatment of the history—are three. First, that the preparation of Israel and Jerusalem for the organic centre of the entire Church of Christ, rested on the whole of the previous history of salvation, and could not be abandoned by the Apostles except in obedience to some definite word and work of God. Secondly, that, in passing to the Gentiles, Christianity was in no such contrast to Judaism as exists in the present day,—a contrast now the result of slow and long development, in modes of both thought and speech; that, on the contrary, it was immediately and originally nothing less than the fulfilment and completion of Judaism. Thirdly, that the Church amongst the Gentiles is not to be regarded as an arbitrary, or a wider and freer, operation of the Spirit, by which the first beginnings in Jerusalem were outrun and surpassed, as being only a subordinate and imperfect stage of development; for that, so far from the extension of the Church in the world being unconnected with and dis severed from its first beginnings, the earliest events in Samaria (when the Apostles went forth to communicate, by prayer and imposition of hands, the Spirit they had themselves received at the Pentecost,) were the type of the whole future, and placed the divine seal on the unity and connection between the first commencement (the divine eternal Apostolate) and every new development, and all futurity. These views lead to the rejection of many opinions put forward by Neander, Olshausen, and others; and, in the author's judgment, give birth to the uniting spirit by which the work

of Luke, in all its parts, is pervaded as an organic whole.

The close of the Acts, so often regarded as incomplete, seems to Baumgarten the perfect and complete termination of the first period of the Church's history—the very crisis to which the book all along pointed. Paul is in Rome; there he dismisses the Jews with whom he had disputations; and preaches Christ and his kingdom, without restraint, to the Gentiles. And these events take place in the metropolis of the world. They are then profoundly significant. "It is the final seal, that, as regards the kingdom of God, the original relation between Jerusalem and Rome has been completely changed,—that the course of the development of the Church from Jerusalem to Rome is not only to be thus understood:—that the direction of this course is from Jerusalem to Rome; but thus also:—that the Church of Christ leaves Jerusalem, in order to be transplanted to Rome,—that Rome has taken the place of Jerusalem." True, Rome, as the great world-power, is an instrument fitted for the development of the enmity of man against God into a kingdom comprehending the world; but, on the other hand, that which, in this Empire, was the original divine appointment for it, viz., law and right, stood above the will of individuals, and was enforced for the good and protection of those who believed in Jesus, in common with others. Thus the faithful, hunted and persecuted in the kingdom of Israel, though it was expressly formed and prepared for the kingdom of Jesus, were protected and promoted in the Roman empire, against the attacks of the Jews. This protecting and promoting position of the kingdom of the world towards the kingdom of God, is the highest victory of Jesus in the midst of his enemies;—the possessors of the kingdom of the world employ their power and law to render innocuous the deep wound and severe loss in the kingdom of heaven, viz., the apostasy of Israel; and in this service the enemies of Jesus are made his footstool. This, then, says Baumgarten, is a completely satisfactory ending,—the highest stage of development, and its normal close, for the whole Gentile Church. The Acts of the Apostles having thus carried on the course of the development of the Church to that point, at which a complete change of all its circumstances takes place, it there concludes; and the prophetic book of the New Testament resumes the thread of the history, in order to represent the struggles and sufferings through which she must pass.

This brief account of the work is, as nearly as possible, in Baumgarten's own words; but is necessarily imperfect from its very brevity. We dare not enter into those opinions of the author which cluster round his central view. We can only state, that he considers the Gentile Church to have misunderstood her position; and to have usurpingly appropriated to herself the right and the future of Israel. On this mistaken estimate of herself, she has universally aimed at the realization of the *Christian-State*, and the *State-Church*; which the author holds to be entirely unscriptural notions. The prospect unfolded to the inward eye of our author, is—the Gentile Church descending to her true position, as the gathering of the faithful and the saints from among the Gentiles, and ordained of God to bring the fulness of the nations into his kingdom; and then, by the universal and irresistible attraction exercised by the Gentile Church, the obduracy of Israel broken, at length and for ever; and, as the last result of the history of nations, converted Israel once more the centre of the Church of Christ, to whom the Christian Gentiles are joined, as one people and kingdom,—the Church, hitherto internal and hidden, then becoming external and visible. Notwithstanding the remarkable consistency of this view, and the depth of perception which is indicated in the reasoning by which it is supported, we should hesitate to adopt all the author has written on "the Millennial Kingdom." Yet we recognise the value of his exposition of the significant close of the Apostolic history,—which exhibits "the spheres of State and Church as co-ordinate, and side by side with each other"; and this we do indeed believe to be "the normal condition which, as in the metropolis of the world (when the inspired historian closed his narrative), must find application in the whole extent of the kingdom of the world, in all lands and isles of the world."

As the characteristic feature of Baumgarten's most remarkable book, is its development of the inner course of events, in the first period of the Church, to the issue we have indicated,—and the manifestation thereby of a definite purpose and entire unity in the book of the Acts of the Apostles,—we have confined our attention to that solely. Yet, we may add, apart from that ruling aim, the work is of the highest excellence as a detailed exposition and commentary. Its intuition is strong and clear; its spirituality intense; its knowledge and learning solid and profound. Of formal criticism there is scarcely an iota; but in the results of the most acute and discriminating criticism it is as rich, as in intellectual breadth

and depth it is wonderfully rare. Every way it is the most noteworthy book Germany has recently added to theological literature. With Neander, Olshausen, Schaaf, and other great writers, vividly remembered, we yet have no scruple in describing it as one of the most valuable works ever given to the world on the beginnings of Christianity, and the foundation and propagation of the Church by the Apostles.

Numerous and important as the translated works issued by Messrs. Clark, in their "Biblical Cabinet" and "Foreign Theological Library" have been, they have, in these volumes, given to the Evangelical Church of England and America, one of the most remarkable and precious of them all. The translation is superior to most—we think we may say, to any—that they have formerly obtained; and deserves grateful recognition and emphatic praise.

We are glad to see that the new volumes of Messrs. Clark's series, for 1863, will be the continuation of Hengstenberg's *Christology*, and Ullmann's *Reformers before the Reformation*.

Letters from Palestine, Description of a Tour through Galilee and Judea; with some account of the Dead Sea, and the Actual State of Jerusalem. By J. R. JOLLY. 2 vols. A new edition, much enlarged and revised. London: Partridge, Oakey, and Co.

This Tour described in these volumes was made nearly forty years ago; and the author has not since been in Palestine. At the time of its publication, the book might be useful and popular, from the absence of better books. But the author was not so intelligent and precise an observer—as were some of the earlier travellers—as to give a definite historical place and interest to his work, or to make it worth reading even after later and complete travel in the Holy Land. We cannot conceive what end it is to be answered by its republication now. Among much that is ignorant or weak in judgment, which we might quote in justification of our criticism, we may advert to the author's acknowledgment, that he does not know whether the Dead Sea is fatal to birds flying over it,—and to his theory that the Pyramids were not tombs, but sacred temples. It is indeed, waste time to read it, either after or instead of such books as those of Robinson, Wilson, Bartlett, De Saulcy, and Van de Velde,—to say nothing of travellers of inferior note, who have written much more pleasing and instructive accounts of Palestine than this. It has no research or exploration—so is not valuable; and no vivid description of interesting adventure—so cannot be popular. The illustrations are from drawings taken in 1817; and they have a certain sort of interest as representations of places at a given period.

Cleanings.

A collected edition of the poetic and dramatic works of Sheridan Knowles will shortly be published.

Thackeray is, it is said, engaged in writing a comedy, to be produced at the Olympic Theatre.

A stonemason at Reading, named Oliver Cromwell, enlisted into the Grenadier Guards a few days ago.

The return of admissions to the Crystal Palace for six days ending the 2nd of February, including season-ticket-holders, was 3,604.

Mr. Disraeli's speech in the late debate is characterized by a dissenting weekly contemporary as "a limited burst of bitter brilliancy."

The wife of Omar Pasha has just had published, at Paris, five military marches, of her own composition, for the piano.

There were last week 705 inmates in the Leicester workhouse—a greater number than has been known since the house was built.

Mr. Walter Coffin, the member for Cardiff, was born in 1764. If this statement is correct, the honourable gentleman is 90 years of age.

There are four sisters now living in the parish of Bowdon, aged, respectively, 85, 83, 76, and 74. They are all widows, and have been so for many years; one, aged 83, is mother of twelve children.

A Yankee, describing an opponent, says—"I tell you what, Sir, that man don't amount to a sum in arithmetic: add him up, and there is nothing to carry."

If you are backbitten and annoyed, take example by your boots; which, although blackened almost every day, shine the more brightly—and which endure every rub without a murmur.

A young man belonging to Thurso has been apprehended, and lodged in Wick Gaol, on a charge of forging a signature to a fictitious notification of a birth, which he addressed to the *Witness*, and in which paper the fabrication appeared.

Dr. Paley was in very high spirits when he was presented to his first preferment in the Church. He attended to a visitation dinner just after this event, and during the entertainment called out jocosely—"Waiter, shut down that window at the back of my chair, and open another behind some curate."

The following epigram was current during the last war:—

In planning expedition 'gainst the foe
Our Ministers are always sure, though slow;
Each expedition meets a common fate,
Slow to depart, and sure to be too late.

The horticulturists of Chiswick, who have been rather unfortunate for some years past in picking out the dampest and most disagreeable days for their fetes, are, it is said, in treaty with the Crystal Palace Company to hold their three summer shows in the building and grounds at Sydenham.

Signer Costa has been for some time engaged in the composition of an oratorio, which was planned and partly completed in the Isle of Wight. This oratorio accepted (probably demanded) by the committee of the Birmingham festival, is to be performed on the 30th of August, 1863, at the Town Hall.

A new phase of the Apocalyptic school is developed in a letter to the *Record*, in which the writer calls attention to the fact, that there is a valley of Jehoshaphat, inhabited by Jews, near the seat of war! Then follows an interesting explanation of *Armageddon*, some referring it to Sebastopol, and others denying its application.

At the Newcastle quarter sessions, a question arose whether the building occupied by a Scotch draper was a shop, or simply a house. The Recorder (Mr. Digby Seymour) asked him, by way of test, "If I were to walk in, and ask you for a yard of silk, would you sell it me?" The canny Scot replied, "That would depend upon whether I thought I could trust ye." (Roars of laughter.)

Dr. Kennedy, the Head Master of the schools at Shrewsbury, said, the other day, it had been his good fortune to travel with Miss Nightingale, from Donnington to Atherstone some years ago, when she had been visiting Mr. Bunsen. Although unacquainted with her name at the time, he had much interesting conversation with her, and even in this interview of three hours, he had regarded her as one of the most enlightened and high-minded women he had ever seen.

Rachel, the great dramatist, is about to visit the United States; her terms with the bold entrepreneur being \$4,000 per month for twelve months, with the condition that \$24,000 of the gross sum should be paid down in advance, and to become the property of her family should her death take place previous to entering on her engagement; in that case she bequeaths her body to the contractor, to be embalmed and exhibited for his benefit. This engagement (says the *Musical World*) has been actually signed by both parties.

The *Leader* has the following items of literary gossip:—"The ever-welcome, ever-young Hugh Hunt, is about to give the lovers of poetry something they have long desired—viz., a collection of his best narrative poems. Elizabeth Barrett Browning and Robert Browning are both preparing new poems for this year. Of these we only know, that Mrs. Browning's is a narrative poem. Miss Jewsbury has a novel ready for publication. We hear also of a volume of Selections from the writings of Thomas Carlyle, to be edited by one who will do his work with taste and discrimination."

BIRTHS.

January 29th, the wife of the Rev. J. C. Jones, M.A., Spalding Lincolnshire, of a son.

January 29th, at Sutton-in-Craven, the wife of the Rev. John Walcott, of a daughter.

January 30th, the wife of the Rev. Morgan Lloyd, Thetford, Norfolk, of a daughter.

February 1st, at Romsey, Hampshire, the wife of the Rev. William Overbury Purchase, of a son.

February 3rd, at Kinning House, near Glasgow, Mrs. J. W. Anderson, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

November 1st, at Christ Church, Adelaide, South Australia, by the Rev. T. Woodcock, LEONARD WILLIAM, third son of C. J. Thorpe, Esq., of Twickenham, to ANNE ELIZABETH, second daughter of the Rev. James Hill, of Clapham.

January 29th, at Argyle Chapel, Bath, WILLIAM HENRY, only son of the late Rev. W. WATSON, of Shaldon, Devon, to ANN JANE, third daughter of Mr. J. KENNARD, of Bath.

January 31st, at Canterbury-green Chapel, by the Rev. George Hovis Birch, Mr. WILLIAM KNOWLEY, of Kelghley, Yorkshire, to MARY ANN, only daughter of the late Mr. THOMAS MASON, of East-end, Finchley.

February 1st, at Tilmanstone, Kent, by the Rev. John Morland Rice, Fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford, the Rev. EMILIOUS BAYLEY, eldest son of Sir JOHN BAYLEY, Bart., to MARIANNE SOPHIA, third daughter of EDWARD RICE, Esq., M.P., of Dane Court, Kent.

February 1st, at Providence Chapel, High-street, Rochdale, by the Rev. William Spencer, father of the bride, Mr. LAURIE M. MILLER to Miss HARRIET SPENCER, both of Rochdale.

February 1st, at the Congregational Chapel, Hungerford, Berks, by the Rev. John Moreland, Mr. GEORGE SKINNER to Miss ELIZABETH MAY, both of Hungerford.

DEATHS.

Lately, at her house, Belle Vue-avenue, Dublin, at a very advanced age, most deeply respected and regretted, Mrs. CATHERINE EYRE, mother of Mr. HENRI CHRISTOPHER EYRE, of London.

October 20th, at Yass, Australia, after a lingering and painful illness, which he bore with exemplary resignation, the Rev. WILLIAM RICHIE, Presbyterian clergyman there, and formerly of West Linton, Scotland, aged 62 years.

November 29th, at Sydney, after a long and painful illness, Lord FREDERICK MONTAGU, youngest son of the Duke of Manchester, in his 28th year.

January 15th, at Birmingham, of bronchitis, the Rev. E. MELSON, aged 74. At the great meeting in Manchester of clergy and dissenting ministers, on the subject of the Anti-Corn-law League, he was the only Wesleyan minister present, for which attendance he received the reproof of the Rev. Dr. Bunting at the ensuing Conference.

January 17th, at Lillington, of scarlet fever, ALBERT GILES, Esq., in the 37th year of his age; and on the following day, JANE, wife of the above; and on the 13th inst., DAVID, their youngest son; and on the 25th inst., ELLEN, their eldest daughter.

January 24th, at Horsham, Mrs. HEATH, aged 67.

January 25th, at her home, Clayton, Sussex, aged 79, HANNAH, the widow of the late JAMES BROGDEN, Esq., M.P., of Clapham, and Trimsaran, South Wales.

January 26th, at his residence, Howard-street, Reading, Mr. JEREMIAH DAVIES, aged 74 years. He had been an honoured and much-loved member of the Baptist Church, King's-road, in that town, for upwards of 52 years.

January 26th, at Edinburgh, AUGUSTUS MAITLAND, Esq., Writer to the Signet, eldest surviving son of the late Sir ALEXANDER CHARLES MAITLAND GIBSON, of Clifton-hall, Bart.

January 26th, MARIA, the widow of GEORGE BURGE, Esq., in her 91st year, many years resident at Clifton-terrace.

January 27th, at Mileworth-house, Middlesex, Lady COOPER, relict of Sir WILLIAM HENRY COOPER, Bart., in the 87th year of her age.

January 27th, at Chesterfield, FRANCIS HURST, Esq., aged 62.

January 28th, at Horsham, Mr. HENRY HUNT, aged 66. He was the senior deacon of the Independent church in that town for many years.

January 28th, at 60, Pall-mall-street, Bath, in his 88th year, JOHN RYE, Esq., founder of the Shipwrecked Fishermen and Mariners' Royal Benevolent Society.

January 29th, at Eatham; HENRIETTA ALLETTA, relict of RICHARD LEWIN, Esq., of the same place, aged 95.

January 29th, at Bellfield, Weymouth, HANNAH, relict of the late CHARLES BURTON, Esq., of Bellfield, in her 96th year.

January 29th, at Tottenham, HENRY, the infant son of the Rev. J. DE KNEWER WILLIAMS.

January 30th, at Wisbech, THORODORA, relict of FRANK GOODMAN, Esq., of the city of Peterborough, in the 96th year of her age.

January 30th, at Heydon, in Norfolk, MARY, relict of the late Mr. WM. IRELAND, farmer, of that place, aged 79 years. The deceased was the oldest member of the Congregational Church at Oulton, in Norfolk, and one of the most liberal supporters of the cause of Christ in connexion therewith.

January 31st, at Totteridge, in her 60th year, after a protracted and distressing illness, borne with Christian fortitude and resignation, SARAH REEVE THOROWOOD, daughter of the late Rev. JOHN THOROWOOD, of Bocking, Essex.

January 31st, after sixteen days' intense suffering, to the irrepressible grief of her parents and family, in the 16th year of her age, ELISA ROBERTSON, the beloved and eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. JOSEPH STARKY, of the Grove, Hammersmith, and 5, Old Bond-street, London.

January 31st, at Meaford, Staffordshire, the Viscountess ST. VINCENT.

January 31st, at Brompton, of scarlet fever, aged 12 years, DAVID FREDERICK ROTHWICK GILCHRIST, youngest and best beloved son of GEORGE LINTLEY, the composer.

February 1st, Mrs. J. DE KNEWER WILLIAMS.

February 3rd, at the house of his son-in-law, 3, Higham-place, Newcastle, the Rev. JOHN WARD, of Low Leazes, Haxham, aged 67 years.

February 5th, at York, Mr. JOSEPH SHILLITO, Bookseller.

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Money Market and Commercial Intelligence.

OTTY, Tuesday Evening.

The report of Lord Palmerston being entrusted with the formation of a Cabinet caused an improvement of the Funds on Saturday afternoon, which was maintained on Monday, until the information of lower prices from the Paris Bourse. The delay in the formation of the new Ministry has, however, to-day produced uneasiness. Consols open about $\frac{1}{2}$ flatter and the market has remained dull and inactive. Consols being quoted at 91 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 91 $\frac{3}{4}$ for both Money and Thursday next. Reduced 3 per Cents. are at 91 $\frac{3}{4}$, and the New 3 per Cents. are at 92. Bank Stock, 211 to 212 $\frac{1}{2}$. New 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cents. have been done at 78 $\frac{1}{2}$. India Bonds, 15s. Exchequer Bills have advanced to 6s. to 9s. pm.; ditto, Bonds, 90 $\frac{1}{2}$.

There has been little doing in Foreign Securities, and prices exhibit little variation. Brazilian small 6 per Cents., 100. Chilean 6 per Cents., firm at 103 $\frac{1}{2}$. Ecuador Bonds remain at 4. Spanish 3 per Cents., Deferred have been dealt in at 17 $\frac{1}{2}$. Turkish Bonds for the Account, 76 $\frac{1}{2}$. Dutch 4 per Cent. Certificates 93 $\frac{1}{2}$.

The Railway share Market has been rather dull, and prices in some instances have given way. Caledonians remain flat at 62, Eastern Counties continue firm at 11 $\frac{1}{2}$. Great Northern A Stock has improved 10s. Great Westerns are $\frac{1}{2}$ firmer. London and Blackwall remain quoted at 8. London and Brightons show a fall of £2. London and North Westerns have receded 10s. London and South Westerns are 6s. firmer. Manchester, Sheffield, &c. $\frac{1}{2}$ weaker. Midlands have fallen 7s. 6d. South Easterns have receded $\frac{1}{2}$. Foreign shares appear somewhat firmer. Great Luxembourgs are firm at 2 $\frac{1}{2}$. Great Western of Canada has improved $\frac{1}{2}$. Madras 16s. higher.

Banking shares are dull and inactive. London Chartered of Australia $\frac{1}{2}$ flatter. London and Westminster remain at 40. Canada shares have been firmly supported at 120. Crystal Palace shares are at 3 $\frac{1}{2}$. North British Australasian $\frac{1}{2}$ dis.; Peel River, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$; and South Australian Land, 35.

Owing to the contraction of trade and the consequent extent to which mercantile engagements are now running off without being renewed, the demand for money to-day in the discount market showed a considerable diminution, and in the Stock Exchange the supply was abundant.

The specie arrivals of last week amounted to about £500,000. The exports, including those by the India, are estimated at about £300,000.

The accounts of the state of trade in the manufacturing towns during the past week indicate a partial increase of depression from the political crisis, but are still on the whole satisfactory, since the prevailing heaviness continues to be unattended with any number of important failures. At Manchester the market has been very inactive, not only from the absence of export orders, but from the home demand having been much below expectation. At Birmingham the appearance of the iron trade seems to justify the con-

dence recently expressed by some of the leading manufacturers, that prices would not continue to decline. Better accounts from the United States, low stocks in Canada, and Government contracts for war purposes, have tended to promote confidence. The Nottingham advices describe no revival. Transactions are limited, but the state of affairs generally is not unhealthy. In the woollen districts there has been a diminished firmness, and the Irish linen markets are again worse. The departures from the Port of London for the Australian Colonies during the week have comprised 12 vessels—four to Sydney, with an aggregate burden of 3,656 tons; two to Port Phillip, with an aggregate burden of 1,010 tons; two to Adelaide, with an aggregate burden of 1,206 tons; one to Portland Bay, of 132 tons; one to Swan River, of 148 tons; one to Moreton Bay, of 694 tons; and one to New Zealand, of 574 tons. Their total capacity was, consequently, 8,016 tons. The rates of freight exhibit no recovery from their late depression.

PROGRESS OF THE STOCKS DURING THE WEEK.

	Wed.	Thurs.	Friday	Saturday	Monday	Tuesday
3 per Ct. Consols	91 1/2	91 1/2	91 1/2	91 1/2	91 1/2	91 1/2
4 per Ct. Consols	91 1/2	91 1/2	91 1/2	91 1/2	91 1/2	91 1/2
5 per Ct. Consols	91 1/2	91 1/2	91 1/2	91 1/2	91 1/2	91 1/2
India Stock	211 1/2	212 1/2	213	213 1/2	213 1/2	213 1/2
Bank Stock	7 pm	7 pm	7 pm	7 pm	7 pm	7 pm
Exchange Bills	19	19	19	19	19	19
Long Annuities	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2

The Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

An Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 32, for the week ending on Saturday, the 27th day of January, 1855.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued	25,671,565	Government Debt	11,015,100
		Other Securities	2,984,900
		Gold Coin & Bullion	11,671,565
		Silver Bullion	—

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital	14,553,000	Government Securities	—
Reserve	3,368,316	Dead Weight Annuity	—
Public Deposits	19,897,554	Other Securities	14,320,311
Other Deposits	10,696,258	Notes	8,888,580
Seven Day and other	—	Gold and Silver Coin	688,115
Bills	1,030,540		

Amount of bullion in bank this week.

Do.	£19,354,580	Do.	£12,162,450
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Increase.

Do.	199,185
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M. MARSHALL, Chief Cashier.

Dated the 1st day of February, 1855.

Friday, February 2nd, 1855.

This "Gazette" contains a notice that the following place has been duly registered for the solemnization of marriages therein:—St. John's Chapel, Alton, Staffordshire.

BANKRUPTCY ANNOUNCED.

Derbyshire, R., Liverpool, merchant, January 23.

BANKRUPT.

Watney, J., Wimbledon, Surrey, baker, February 12, March 10; solicitor, Mr. Benson, New Bridge-street.

Ireland, S. S., Brighton, cabinet-maker, February 16, March 21; solicitors, Messrs. Tiltford and Co., Old Jewry.

Cable, H. G., Goswell-street, Clerkenwell, draper, February 16, March 12; solicitors, Messrs. Sole and Co., Aldermanbury.

Buckell, H., Portsea, Hampshire, draper, February 16, March 12; solicitors, Mr. Low, Chancery-lane; Messrs. Ford, Portsea, Hants.

Beaumont, J., sen., and Beaumont, J., jun., Commercial-place, City-road, coach-makers, February 16, March 16; solicitor, Mr. Gill, Strand.

Nash, B. W., College-hill, City, wine-merchant, February 16, March 13; solicitors, Messrs. Bennett and Paul, St. Eusebius, City.

Baily, E. H., Newman-street, Oxford-street, and Crescent, Camden-road-villas, sculptor, February 13, March 13; solicitors, Mr. Jones, Quality-court, Chancery-lane; Mr. Mayhew, Argyll-place, Regent-street.

Swann, J., Coventry, Warwickshire, hardware-dealer, February 17, March 9; solicitors, Mr. Minister, Coventry; Mr. Reece, Birmingham.

Fletcher, W. H., Kidderminster, Worcestershire, auctioneer, February 17, March 9; solicitors, Messrs. Saunders and Son, Kidderminster; Messrs. Mottram and Knight, Birmingham.

Perkins, W., Birmingham, soda water dealer, February 17, March 9; solicitor, Mr. Smith, Birmingham.

Birt, J., Abingdon, Gloucestershire, paper manufacturer, February 14, March 13; solicitors, Mr. Winterbottom, Strand; Messrs. Abbott and Lucas, Bristol.

Clapton, J., Exeter, grocer, February 15, March 6; solicitors, Messrs. Head and Veau, Exeter.

Shipman, W., Manchester, baker, February 19, March 15; solicitor, Mr. Partington, Manchester.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

Ford, J., Edinburgh, provision merchant, February 9.

Smith, J., Glasgow, draper, February 12.

Whyte, A., Glasgow, merchant, February 14.

DECLARATIONS OF DIVIDENDS.

Lealie and Smith, St. Dunstan's-hill, merchant, div. of 2s. 8d., on account of 4s. 6d., to new profits, January 30, and any subsequent Tuesday, at Mr. Pennell's, Guildhall-chambers.—Hollander, L. A., Winchester-street, City, and Clapham, Surrey, diamond merchant, 4th div. of 2s. 4d., January 30, and any subsequent Tuesday, at Mr. Pennell's, Guildhall-chambers.—Roberts, W. J., Chepstow-place, Canterbury, clerk in her Majesty's Customs, 3rd div. of 6s. 6d., January 30, and any subsequent Tuesday, at Mr. Pennell's, Guildhall-chambers.—Webb, J. R. R., Stock-bridge-terrace, Pimlico, commander in the Royal Navy, 3rd div. of 1s. 11d., January 23, and any subsequent Tuesday, at Mr. Pennell's, Guildhall-chambers.—Rutherford, T., Agnes-place, Waterloo-road, 4th div. of 1s. 1d., January 30, and any subsequent Tuesday, at Mr. Pennell's, Guildhall-chambers.—Satter, S., Hutton-bridge, Hertfordshire, maltster, 2nd div. of 2s. 11d., January 30, and any subsequent Tuesday, at Mr. Pennell's, Guildhall-chambers.—Druke, C., Garlick-hill, City, colour warehouseman, 2nd div. of 2s. 4d., January 23, and any subsequent Tuesday, at Mr. Pennell's, Guildhall-chambers.—Stockdale, J. J., Strand, bookseller, 1st div. of 4s. 2d., January 23, and any subsequent Tuesday, at Mr. Pennell's, Guildhall-chambers.—Lee, M. E., Brighton, Sussex, jeweller, 1st div. of 8s. 4d., January 23, and any subsequent Tuesday, at Mr. Pennell's, Guildhall-chambers.—Rendy, J. W., Portsmouth, builder, 2nd div. of 4s. 7d., February 3, and any subsequent Monday, at Mr. Canaan's, Aldermanbury.—Solomon, H., Holborn-hill, City, and Cumberland-place, Old Kent-road, and Surrey-place, Old Kent-road, furniture broker, 2nd div. of 1s. 6d., February 3, and any subsequent Monday, at Mr. Canaan's, Aldermanbury.—Willcox, J., Broadway, Westminster, cheesemonger, 1st div. of 4s. 1d., February 3, and any

subsequent Monday, at Mr. Canaan's, Aldermanbury.—Smart, J., Saffron Walden, cabinet-maker, 1st div. of 8s. 11d., February 7, and any subsequent Wednesday, at Mr. Lee's, Aldermanbury.—Kegg, E., Liverpool and Birkenhead, coal dealer, 1st div. of 1s. 4d., February 14, and any subsequent Wednesday, at Mr. Turner's, Liverpool.

Tuesday, February 6th, 1855.

This "Gazette" contains a notice that the following place has been duly registered for the solemnization of marriages therein:—Egham Chapel, Egham, Surrey.

BANKRUPT.

Klein, D., Hillingdon, Middlesex, brick-maker, February 16, March 20; solicitors, Messrs. Paterson, Bonville-street, City, and Wools, Uxbridge.

Pothecary, J., and Symes, W., Nuneham-street, Hampshire, boarding-house-keepers, February 14, March 20; solicitors, Messrs. Vennings and Co., Tisbury, Hampshire, City.

Halkett, D., Herne Bay, Kent, shipowner, February 16, March 21; solicitors, Messrs. Linklater, St. Eusebius, Bucklersbury.

Campbell, J. F., St. Peter's-alley, Cornhill, insurance broker, February 16, March 20; solicitors, Messrs. Turnley and Lascombe, Cannon-street.

Geyelin, G. K., Grafton-street, East, white zinc paint manufacturer, February 16, March 23; solicitors, Messrs. Lawrence and Co., Old Jewry-chambers.

Hardy, W. C., Hillingdon, Middlesex, plumber, February 16, March 23; solicitors, Mr. Crouch, Gray's Inn-square, and Mr. Gardner, Uxbridge.

Haseiden, C., Wigmore-street, Cavendish-square, bookseller, February 17, March 23; solicitor, Mr. Kinsey, Bloomsbury-square.

Hall, E., Greenwich, Kent, licensed victualler, February 16, March 16; solicitor, Mr. Pollock, Beesborough-street, Belgrave-road.

Brindley, J., Birmingham, hostler, February 21, March 13; solicitors, Messrs. Harrison and Wood, Birmingham.

Barnham, J., Manchester, commission agent, February 21, March 13; solicitors, Messrs. Sale and Co., Manchester.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

Knox, G., Glasgow, merchant, February 16.

Scott, W., Combehead, Lanarkshire, carter, February 17.

Knox, G. and Campbell, R., Glasgow, merchants, February 16.

Peacock, W. G., Hamilton, February 14.

DECLARATION OF DIVIDEND.

Pickering, W., Piccadilly, 3rd div. of 5s. and 15s. on new profits, February 3, and three subsequent Wednesdays, at Mr. Edwards's, Sanbrook-court.

Markets.

MARK LANE, LONDON, Monday, February 5, 1855.

We had a very small quantity of English Wheat offering this morning, but the trade was dull at last Monday's prices. We cannot quote any change in the value of foreign; there was however very little done. The sale of Flour was slow, but holders were not disposed to take lower prices. Barley maintained last week's quotations. Beans and Peas without alteration. The arrivals of Oats last week were liberal, and we had a limited demand to-day at 6d. 9 gr. under the prices of this day week. Linseed dull; Cakes without alteration. In Tares nothing doing.

BRITISH.

Wheat—

Essex and Kent, Red 48 to 72

Do. White 72 80

Do. Norfolk 72 80

Yorkshire Red 72 80

Northumb. & Scotch 68 72

Eye 48 48

Barley mowing (new) 32 35

Distilling 68 70

Malt (pale) 68 70

Beans, Marston 40 45

Ticks 40 45

Harrow 40 45

Pigeon 40 45

Peas, White 40 45

Grey 40 45

Maple 40 45

Boilers 40 45

Tares (English) 50 52

Foreign 50 52

Oats (English feed) 22 29

Flour, town made, per sack of 280 lbs. 50 70

Linseed, English 70 74

Baltic 60 62

Black Sea 60 62

Hempseed 40 44

Canaryseed 40 44

Cloverseed per cwt. of 112 lbs. English 48 52

German 42 46

French 42 46

American 42 46

Linseed Cakes 21s 10 to 21s 6

Rape Cake 2s to 2s 10 per ton

Reaped 23s to 23s 6 per last.

FOREIGN.

Wheat—

Danish 80 82

Konigsberg 80 82

Romanian 80 82

Essex 80 82

Danish & Holstein 80 82

East Prussian 80 82

Petersburg 80 82

Riga and Archangel 80 82

Polish Odessa 80 82

Marianopol 80 82

Tyranog 80 82

Egyptian 80 82

American (U.S.) 80 82

Barley Pomeranian 80 82

Konigsberg 80 82

Danish 80 82

East Prussian 80 82

Egyptian 80 82

Odessa 80 82

Beans—

Horse 38 40

Pigeon 42 44

Egyptian 40 42

 Peas, White 40 44 |

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